

DATE: MAY 29, 2011

TEXT: Proverbs 8:1-11

PROVERBS: Message from chapters 5-9

TITLE: "WHAT IS TUGGING AT YOUR HEART?"

SERIES: "GET SMART" – Wisdom for living from the book of Proverbs #5

Note: Lots of scripture in this lesson from God's Word. I want to encourage you to read and reflect on the scripture during the week.

INTRODUCTION: What are the things that tug at your heart today? The issues in your life that are calling for your attention like a commander might call for attention of his unit. What are the issues that pull at you and cause you to focus on them? ...the things forever on your mind or perhaps wake you up in the night....the daily activities that call for your time, energy or thought?

There are many things that call out to us. To a parent, there may be the call of a child in the middle of the night who is afraid or hungry, or a phone call from a school that a child is in trouble or not doing well with their grades. To a worker, it might be a call that you are needed to work extra hours or that you are not needed to work at all.

There are calls that can interrupt our plans or change activities, like the call of a doctor that something was discovered on a test or that more test are needed. Or, the call of emergency personnel, telling us that there has been an accident.

There are calls that can delight us, distract us, disturb or even destroy us. There are temptations that knock at our heart's door and call to us every day. The world tugs at us everyday. There are opportunities to serves Christ, share Christ and show Christ that knock at our heart's door and call out to us every day. How do you respond to the things that call for your attention?

ILLUSTRATION: We have a hamster we call Midnight. I personally would call him Sleepy, for that it what it does. It is a roly-poly hamster. When we first got him, the cage came with houses. There was a hole in the house for him to enter. It was for hamsters but not a roly-poly hamster like this. He got stuck trying to get through it. It was a crisis that took patience and effort to get him unstuck. Since he is in the kitchen area, we often times will feed him a piece of banana or apple. We call for him and make noise. He comes out of his little roly-poly house, (this one has a big opening). Our hamster likes fruit and responds to the call to come and get fruit. He usually stuffs it all in his mouth or carries it back to his little house. He responds well to the call to come.

What are the things that are distracting you today? The things at home, at school, at work that are calling for your attention? The things tugging at your heart and soul? In this Scripture, we discover wisdom is calling us. In Proverbs, there is a call to live a life of godly wisdom. It is a call to respond wisely to every temptation, desire, opportunity, challenge, fear, failure, difficulty, disappointment, dream, and possibility with godly

wisdom. It is a call to live a life of godly wisdom. However, in the passages of Scripture proceeding, we discover there are other things that tug at our heart. These are things that call for our attention and can pull us away from walking the path of godly wisdom. Things that seek to silence the call of God to live life to its fullest by living by God's plan. The paths of the world try to pull us away from the path of wisdom and living life the way God intends. What are the things tugging at your heart today and how will you respond to them?

I. (chapters 5,6, &7) THE TUG OF SIN

1. Like a massive magnet, there are many things that pull at a marriage relationship, seeking to rip it apart like a lion might tear a piece meat apart from a bone.
2. Adultery is a malicious magnet of sin that has ripped many marriage relationships apart at their very core.
3. Adultery involves the breaking of a marriage contract.
4. Because it is so serious, Proverbs returns frequently to this topic.
5. Chapters 5, 6, and 7 have lengthy warnings against adultery.
6. Here is one word picture that describes the tug of adultery and its consequence.
“For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.” (Proverbs 5:3-4)
7. Adultery is a terrible tool of the enemy that he has used to destroy marriages, break hearts, splinter families, wreck reputations and rob people of their dreams.
8. Wisdom warns against the devastation of adultery, calling us to avoid adultery at all cost.
9. There is a lesson here in Proverbs that relates to all sin.

LESSON ONE: DO ALL YOU CAN TO AVOID SIN

10. The first condition for most temptations is to be aware of where temptations take place, for the writing of Proverbs is clear that we are to avoid places where temptations abides.
11. Places in the mind and heart, as well as physical locations.
12. Don't test your ability to be tempted.

ILLUSTRATION: I personally make it my practice to pray the Lord's Prayer the minute I open my eyes in the morning, before I hop out of bed. This prayer the Lord taught us to prayer says, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6:13)

ILLUSTRATION: The week I was writing this sermon, Starlene, our Director of Ministries, brought in a box of really delicious-looking chocolates. There were three trays of chocolates in this box. I opened the trays to look inside and then I realized the temptation. I shut the tray and walked away. It would have been easier if I would not have stopped and looked at the chocolate in the first place.

13. The message of Proverbs is simply, “Don't go there!”
14. We are warned again and again and again in Proverbs to stay away from adultery and avoid it.

“Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house.” (Proverbs 5:8)

15. Pornography is a magnet that has caught many in its vice grip, taking them through the door of adultery.

ILLUSTRATION: I remember the day I received the call from him. It was several years ago now, but I remember it well. He said, “Pastor, I need to come and see you.” He was a leader in the church. No one really knew of his secret. But, one day, he was caught at his work looking at pornography. Even though he was the head manager of a successful company that shipped their product literally around the world, since it was a violation of that secular company’s codes, he was fired on the spot. His wife and two daughters, one a teen, were devastated. He confessed and got help. He worked through it with his precious wife and, today, he is working full-time for a Christian ministry in Colorado, serving the Lord with all of his heart. He said to me, “I am glad I got caught when I did so that it did not take me any further than it did.” He gave me permission to tell his story.

16. Sin was tugging at his heart and he had responded it.

17. Adultery is one pull of the sinful world that tempts and destroys.

18. The invitation to adultery and sin are prevalent in our culture.

19. The culture of our world seeks to portray adultery as normal and common, but God has a different perspective on adultery, as stated in the Ten Commandments when He says, “You shall not commit adultery.”

20. Listen to how God views the seriousness of adultery in these words of warning.

“Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.” (Proverbs 7:25-27)

21. Listen to this word of warning.

“Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life.” (6:25-26)

22. The warning against lust in your heart speaks of the power of lust to destroy.

23. The verb translated “lust” is used in the Old Testament to warn against coveting.

24. Lust, according to Jesus, is a sin of the same kind as the act, not just the first step toward sin.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5:27-28)

25. Though the focus of chapters 5, 6, and 7 centers on adultery, in these chapters, eyes are opened to the seriousness of sin and the reality that sin is not harmless.

ILLUSTRATION: Aesop tells the ancient story of a boy hunting for locusts. The lad had caught quite a few when he saw a scorpion. Mistaking it for a locust, he reached out his hand to take it. The scorpion showed his stinger and said, “If you had but touched me, my friend, you would have lost me, and all your locusts too!” There are some things you cannot embrace without losing what you have in the process.

26. The need to avoid sin is highlighted with these two parables in Proverbs.

“Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched?” (Proverbs 6:27-28)

27. Like a rattlesnake coiled to strike, sin is not to be petted or toyed with.

28. We must take sin seriously.

ILLUSTRATION: ** Sin adds to your troubles, Subtracts from your energy, Multiplies your difficulties, Divides your interest in your work, and its wages is death.” (Unknown)

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.” (I Peter 2:11)

29. Dear young adults, I urge you to abstain from sinful desires.

30. Dear students, I urge you to abstain from sinful desires.

31. In God’s church of tomorrow, sin will still be sin and adultery will be foreign, as young people live lives of godly wisdom.

ILLUSTRATION: Johann Peter Lange, the nineteenth century German theologian and author, told a story about a religious leader who was viciously hated by the emperor of his day. Some of the ruler's advisors said to the monarch, "Burn him, confiscate his property, put him in irons, or have him killed." But others disagreed. They said, "You will not gain anything by all this; for in exile he would find a home with his God; . . . , death opens heaven to him. There is only one way to render him unhappy; force him to sin. He fears nothing in the world but sin"

32. Though the focus in these chapters is centered on adultery, again, the principle of avoiding sin is clear.

“Avoid every kind of evil.” (I Thessalonians 5:22)

33. Playing with temptation is only the heart reaching out after sin.

34. Do all you can to avoid sin.

35. There is a second lesson about sin in Proverbs.

36. The second condition for most sin is the myth that they are secret and that no one will know.

LESSON TWO: SIN IS NOT SECRET

“For a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.” (Proverbs 5:21)

ILLUSTRATION: Historically, the Duke of Wellington is best remembered as the general who defeated Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. During his earlier service in India, Wellington was in charge of negotiations after the battle of Assaye. The emissary of an Indian ruler, anxious to know what territories would be ceded to his master, tried in various ways to get the information. Finally, he offered Wellington a large sum of money. “Can you keep a secret?” asked Wellington. “Yes indeed,” the man said eagerly. “So can I,” he replied.”

37. Adam and Eve discovered that their sin of disobedience was not secret.

38. Secret sin is not secret.

ILLUSTRATION: The Old Testament tells us that a man by the name of Achan was at Jericho when God gave Joshua and the people of God victory over that city. He secretly took a beautiful robe, 200 shekels of silver and a wedge of gold. He hid them in the ground under his tent but He could not hide them from God. So, God made it know to Joshua that this sin had taken place.

39. Every path of sin we travel is known to God.

40. Every sinful thought is seen by His all-seeing eye.

“...This is what the Lord says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but I know what is going through your mind.” (Ezekiel 11:5)

41. God can never be tricked or blinded from seeing our sin.

“But they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me.” (Hosea 7:2)

42. Every sinful deed is seen by His all-seeing eye.

“My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.” (Jeremiah 16:17)

43. Proverbs is saying, “Every act of adultery is committed in front of and in the full view of God.”

44. God has a front row seat for every sin you commit.

45. Young people, let that thought sit on your mind this week.

46. Dad and Mom, let that thought sit on your mind this week.

47. God has a front row seat for every sin you commit.

48. When we are sinning, we can imply God does not see or care, but the reality is that He does.

ILLUSTRATION: ** Devotional writer Oswald Chambers put it, “Sin is blatant mutiny against God.”

49. The point is that sin is serious and must be dealt with.

LESSON THREE: USE WISDOM TO DEAL WITH SIN

50. A life of wisdom can protect us from responding to the tug of sin in an appropriate way.

51. To live a life of wisdom is to live a life of obedience to the commands of God.

“My son, keep your father’s commands and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.” (Proverbs 6:20-21)

52. Proverbs 6:22 instructs that you keep the commands of God on your heart, letting them guide you when you walk, watch over you while you sleep, and speak for you when you are awake.

53. The commands of God lead us to live a life of wisdom.

“For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.” (Proverbs 6:23)

54. Keeping the commands of God every day through obedience through the power of His Spirit can keep us strong in the things of God.

55. Hold on to the life of godly wisdom revealed in His Word.

“My son, keep my words and store up my commands within you. Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.” (Proverbs 7:1-3)

56. The expression “the apple of your eye” is literally the little man in the eye, having reference to the pupil, where the object focused on is reflected.

57. The point is that the teaching of God is so precious it must be guarded that closely.

****APPLICATION: Make obeying the commands of God a lifestyle.**

ILLUSTRATION: (Contact Dave Holcomb to be in back with an Elk call)**

(*Picture of herd of Elk) I was talking to one of our men who has done some hunting. He was talking about the Elk calls. There are varieties of elk calls that can be used depending on a variety of factors. Some are harder to use than others, I understand. Some have worked hard to master the art. If you listen, Satan has mastered the art of calling people to sin. He has a variety of calls he can use.

Adultery is one of those, but there are many. Just as the purpose of the hunter is to use the call to woo an Elk, Satan's purpose is to destroy you.

58. He will tug at you every chance he gets with sin.

59. He will use whatever sin he can to tug at your heart.

60. Tune in to God's word and the Spirit of God.

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (I Corinthians 10:13)

61. Through the power of His Spirit, you can say no to the tug of sin.

62. Listen to the call of His Spirit.

63. The apostle Paul said it this way,

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." (Galatians 5:16)

64. What are the things tugging at your heart and how will you respond?

II. (Chapters 6&9) THE TUG OF THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE WORLD

1. Folly is the state of being foolish, a foolish act or idea.

ILLUSTRATION: Theologian James Packer said, "The opposite of wisdom is folly, meaning the short-term self-indulgence which marks out the person who doesn't think about long-term priorities and goals but lives on a day-to-day basis, asking, 'What is the most fun thing to do now?'" (Theologian, James Packer)

2. The fool in the book of Proverbs meets us under various names.

3. There is the 'simple.' It is the person who is easily deceived, seduced, led or gullible.

4. Then there is the 'fool.'

5. There are three words translated as 'fool' in proverbs.

6. The most common word means "one who has chosen to be obstinate."

7. The second word suggests stupidity and stubbornness.

8. The third is "one whose mind is closed to the presence to God."

9. Another word that describes folly or foolishness is the scoffer, scorner or mocker.

10. They are a deliberate troublemaker.

11. All these terms speak of sinfulness, the opposite of godly wisdom.

12. In chapter six, we are given warnings against folly or foolishness.

ILLUSTRATION: There is a proverb from the Middle East which states, "A foolish man may be known by six things: Anger without cause, speech without profit, change without progress, inquiry without object, putting trust in a stranger, and mistaking foe for friend." (Unknown)

13. Included in the chapter are the things the Lord hates.

14. All of them are basically acts of foolishness.

"haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who purpose out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers." (Proverbs 6:17-19)

15. They are contrary to wisdom.

16. Chapter 9 gives a contrast between the call of wisdom and the call of folly or foolishness.

17. Proverbs says this about the call of foolishness.

“The woman Folly is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge. She sits at the door of her house...” (Proverbs 9:13-14)

18. She calls out to those who lack judgment.

19. Foolishness is a main theme in Proverbs.

20. Briefly grasp a perspective of what foolishness is by look at a few Proverbs.

****A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF FOOLISHNESS IN PROVERBS**

(v.18:13) FOOLISHNESS IS SPEAKING BEFORE LISTENING.

“He who answers before listening-that is his folly and his shame.” (Proverbs 18:13)

21. Wisdom learns to listen first.

ILLUSTATION: The philosopher Plato, describing a difference between the wise and the fool said, ** “Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something.” (Plato)**

22. James said, **“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” (James 1:19)**

ILLUSTRATION: ** (Put on screen with picture of owl)

“A wise old owl sat in an oak;

The more he saw the less he spoke

The less he spoke the more he heard

Let’s try to imitate that bird.”

(v.26:11) FOOLISHNESS IS REPEATING SIN OVER AND OVER

“As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.” (Proverbs 26:11)

23. To fail to learn from yesterday’s mistakes is foolishness.

24. We need to leave the foolishness of yesterday.

ILLUSTRATION: A woman accused of adultery was brought to Jesus. After those that condemned her had left, Jesus said, “I do not condemn you either.” Then He said one more thing.

25. **“Go and sin no more. Leave your life of sin.”**

“Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’” (John 8:11)

26. God provides the wisdom and power that we need to do what He asks us to do.

(v. 15:5) FOOLISHNESS DOES NOT LEARN FROM CORRECTION

“A fool spurns his father’s discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.” (Proverbs 15:5)

26. The foolish do not understand the value of being corrected.

27. The foolish do not understand that discipline is for our good.

28. The wise man wants to be corrected by truth.

ILLUSTRATION: **“A word to the wise is superfluous, and a hundred words to the unwise are futile.” (Sydney Harris)**

29. A wise man accepts instruction and correction.

30. A wise man wants to learn the errors of his ways.

ILLUSTRATION: **“Get your friends to tell you your faults, or better still, welcome an enemy who will watch you keenly and sting you savagely. What a blessing such an irritating critic will be to a wise man, what an intolerable nuisance to a fool!” (Charles Spurgeon – Pastor of the 1800’s)**

(v. 28:26) **FOOLISHNESS IS TRUSTING IN OURSELVES**

“He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.”

(Proverbs 28:26)

31. Wisdom is trusting God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

(Proverbs 3:5)

ILLUSTRATION: (Picture of this on a dollar bill on screen) Borrow a dollar bill from someone (prepare ahead). If you take out a dollar bill, you will find the words, “In GOD we trust.” The phrase must be more than printed words. They must be written in the actions of our daily lives. It brings up the question for all of us. Do I trust in God’s wisdom on my own? Do I trust in His Word or on my own feelings? Do I trust in a big, loving God or do I trust in something less?**

32. It is only when we surrender our wisdom that we can experience the wisdom of God.

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight...” (I Corinthians 3:19)

33. The tug of the foolishness of the world pulls at our hearts.

34. Foolishness in its essence is leaving God out of our lives.

(Psalm 14:1) “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”

35. “No God, I don’t need your word on this issue.”

36. “No God, I don’t need your guidance on this issue.”

37. “No God, I am leaving you out of this part of my life.”

38. Young people, is God involved in your relationship, dating, friends, activities?

39. “No, God, I am not going to receive the gospel.”

40. “No, God, I am not going to surrender my whole life to you.”

41. What are you building your life upon?

42. Foolishness is building our lives upon the sands of our own desires, feelings, and thoughts.

43. Jesus tells the story of the wise and foolish builders.

ILLUSTRATION: (Children sing the Wise Men song) Song in Sunday school I have some singers that are going to do motions and sing it.**

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who build his house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)

“But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.” (Matthew 7:26)

44. To build upon the word of the Lord is to build our lives on wisdom.

45. The call of foolishness is to not build upon the words of Christ or to put them into practice.

46. The call of foolishness the call of wisdom.

ILLUSTRATION: Jim Elliot was a missionaries murdered with four other missions in Ecuador back in the 60’s. They were 20th century martyrs for Christ. He is known for this phrase “He is no fool who exchanges what he cannot keep for what he cannot lose.”**

47. He understood the difference between wisdom and foolishness.

ILLUSTRATION: **“Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.” (Jim Elliot)

48. He was talking about responding to God's call with all that you are.
**APPLICATION: Say No to the Foolishness of the World by Saying YES to God.
49. What are the things tugging at your heart and how will you respond?
50. Will you accept the invitation of wisdom or foolishness?

III. THE TUG OF WISDOM

1. Sin and foolishness call out to our hearts.
2. They tug at our souls, clamoring for our attention.
3. But there is another voice calling out to us.
4. It is the voice of wisdom.

“Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?” (Proverbs 8:1)

5. We have met Lady Wisdom before in Proverbs.
6. In Proverbs 1, she took to the streets to scold the simple.
7. In chapters 3 and 4, she is the source of rich blessings.
8. In chapter seven, wisdom serves as a foil to the adulteress.
9. Now, in this chapter, we hear her calling out again to us.
10. In Proverbs, wisdom is expressed as words, commandments, understanding, insight, teaching, discretion, instruction, precepts and sayings.
11. We have discovered that wisdom is the fear of the Lord.
12. Wisdom, a real understanding of, leads to relationship with God through surrender to Him.
13. In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul said that it is in Christ that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.
14. Jesus is the way to a personal relationship with God.
15. It is in Christ that we have wisdom.
16. Wisdom tugs at our hearts.
17. She takes to the streets to make her message known.

“On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:” (Proverbs 8:2-3)

18. The wisdom of God is relevant to our daily lives.
19. It is an invitation to all to live wisely.
20. Wisdom seeks us out and calls us to live wisely.

“To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.” (Proverbs 8:4-5)

21. Our search for wisdom is a response to wisdom's search for us.

WISDOM IS VALUABLE

“Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.” (Proverbs 8:6-8)

22. It is worth listening to.
23. Wisdom is worth our hearing and consideration.
24. Listen, for wisdom is worthy of excellent things.
25. Listen, for wisdom speaks what is right.
26. Wisdom speaks what is true and reliable.
27. Wisdom speaks what is just, for there is no deception in wisdom.

28. Wisdom is trustworthy.

“For wisdom is more precious than rubies and nothing you desire can compare with her.” (Proverbs 8:11)

EXAMPLE: In chapter 9, verses 1-9, wisdom is portrayed as a banquet. The invitation is to come; eat and drink of wisdom. Walk in the way of wisdom.

WISDOM CALLS FOR A RESPONSE

29. Wisdom is what Yahweh as Creator counted primary and indispensable.

30. Wisdom is both older than the universe and fundamental to it.

31. Proverbs teaches us that we are to receive, be attentive to, incline our heart to, cry out for, seek, remember, keep, hear, bind on our hearts, tie about our neck, bind on our fingers, and write on the table of our mind.

32. A life of wisdom is to be our priority.

“I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.” (Proverbs 8:17)

33. Our response is to receive the invitation and to act on it.

34. The promise is, **“For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord.” (Proverbs 8:35)**

35. How can there be a better offer than that?

36. It echoes Jesus' words in John 10:10: **“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)**

37. The Lord offers us a life of wisdom as we surrender our lives to Him.

38. The invitation has been extended. How will we respond?

39. Think through the invitation to have Christ be the one who can make your life everything you long for it to be.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” (Revelation 22:17)

40. Wisdom calls for a response.

“Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.” (Proverbs 8:33)

41. Wisdom calls for a decision.

****APPLICATION: Respond to the invitation to live a life of wisdom**

ILLUSTRATION: (Picture of the whales stranded on the beach) There have been many reports of whales stranding themselves on the beach through the years. In February of this year, about 70 pilot whales became stranded in New Zealand. Boats had been following the whales and trying to herd them in the right direction, Hundreds of volunteers on the shore were doing what they could to stop them from getting too close to land by forming human barriers in shallow spots. Volunteers remained posted on the spit, keeping an eye out for the mammals, trying to get them in the water. At times, volunteers have tried to gently keep them away from the shore and keep them in deep waters.**

Martin De Haan suggested there's something about human beings that mimics those whales. Our sinful nature causes us to self-destruct. The Creator has provided a sea of wisdom for us to live in through His word. Through Christ, we can live in the sea of wisdom. Yet, like unreasonable animals, we seem obsessed with a desire to break out of the element we were created for. Instead of remaining in the expanse of a loving, conscious submission to God, we throw ourselves onto

the arid ground of disobedience. The world tugs at us while God is calling us to live in the sea of wisdom.

CONCLUSION: What are the things tugging at your heart today? How will you respond?

I. THE TUG OF SIN

Do all you can to avoid sin, realizing sin is not secret, using wisdom to deal with sin.

Make obeying the commands of God a lifestyle.

II. THE TUG OF THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE WORLD

Say No to the Foolishness of the World by Saying YES to God

Build your lives on the rock of Christ's word.

III. THE TUG OF WISDOM

WISDOM IS VALUABLE

WISDOM CALLS FOR A RESPONSE

Will you respond to the tug of the Lord?