

THE WISDOM OF JESUS

By Timothy Kroll, President of Woodrow Kroll Ministries

You can have a happier life...

- ...if you'll be humble and content with what you have,
- ...if you'll allow yourself to cry and be emotional over the things you are passionate about,
- ...if you'll be kind and gentle to others,
- ...if you'll desire and pursue a moral life,
- ...if you'll show mercy to others,
- ...if you'll keep yourself from sin,
- ...if you'll make peace with others,
- ...if you'll persevere when others treat you poorly.

Remember, you're stronger than anything they can do to you and what they do to you will eventually end.

Enrich the world around you by making it better and preserving what is already good.

Be someone that others can look to and appreciate the goodness of God.

Remember the commandments of old and keep them: honoring God; resting a day each week; honoring and loving your parents; treating other people right - don't kill, steal, commit adultery, lie, or covet.

Remember what you've been taught and teach it to someone else.

Be better than the hypocrites that seem good to everyone else.

Watch out that anger doesn't overwhelm you and don't let it lead you to call other people names.

If you know someone is upset or hurt by you, and they will be, take care of it right away before it becomes a greater problem.

If you get married, be true to your spouse. Never look at your spouse or another person as only being there to meet your needs or wants - that devalues them and you.

If you give your word, keep it. Mean "yes" if you say "yes" and "no" if you say "no".

When you are mistreated, look for a way to meet that mistreatment with blessing - that will really confuse those who mistreat you!

Love those who love you and love those who don't. Simply love.

If you're looking to get to Heaven someday, simply be perfect. If you can't be perfect, then you better find someone who is perfect to help you.

Do good things because they are good and not so other people will think that you're good.

Be generous and give to those in need.

Talk to God regularly and trust Him to work in and through your life. And when you do talk to Him, pray for the things that matter to Him and not necessarily to you.

Forgive others when they have wronged you.

Learn discipline and self-control in some area of your life and then let what you've learned come into the other areas of your life.

Don't trade your life for things that don't matter - your life isn't disposable so don't trade it for things that are.

Only allow good things into your life - a little bit of bad has an incredible way of affecting all of your life.

You may be able to multitask but you can't be wholly devoted to two divergent things at the same time - so don't even try.

Stop worrying about tomorrow - it won't help tomorrow at all but it will ruin today. You've got enough to do today, so pursue what is best in this day and then, tomorrow, do the same thing.

Before you try to help someone else straighten up their life, straighten up your own - people rarely take help from hypocrites.

If you are blessed with something good, treat it as valuable as it is, and don't let others treat it like junk.

Show initiative and take chances. You'll never know the great blessing just around the corner until you turn the corner.

If people are good, trust that they will be good to you.

Treat other people just like you would like them to treat you.

Don't follow the crowd, they're often wrong.

Watch out for people who will lie to you and try to mislead you. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Look behind the words and promises - see if there is evidence of truth. Everyone can claim to be a great cook but the proof is in the pudding.

Just saying you know God, doesn't mean you know Him or even that He knows you. Just saying you are a Christian doesn't make you a Christian any more than saying you are a penguin makes you a penguin. Penguins are born. Christians are born again.

Take this wisdom as a foundation for your life. Go out and build your life on this great foundation. If you build on something other than the foundation of wisdom, your efforts will come crashing down - maybe not right away but it will happen. If you build on the foundation of wisdom, your life will be blessed and able to make it through anything thrown at you.

Endnotes

If you think the Bible is too difficult to understand, no longer relevant, or not really applicable to your life, but you found this wisdom of Jesus helpful, encouraging, or challenging, then know that it all came from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

