



Loving God With All of Your Heart, Mind, and Soul? *by Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro*

Loving the Lord your God with all of your heart, mind, and soul is all about Jesus and not about us as individuals. However, most of us Christians live our lives with the emphasis on “me” and not on “Him”. Many times we tend to try and avoid the Lord’s commands when they seem uncomfortable and inconvenient to us. Just one example of this can be found in Ephesians 4 where the responsibilities of Pastors are outlined here.

One of those responsibilities is recorded in **Ephesians 4:15 (NLT)** ¹⁵*Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.* This is a quality of Christian living that we are supposed to lead the people of the church to.

If our lives were all about Jesus Christ, and if we love Him with all of our hearts, minds, and souls, then we would be looking to fulfill and obey the commands and wishes of our Lord. With just this one passage, it would mean that we would speak the truth in love to each other instead of avoiding it. Too many times we determine that it is too difficult and too uncomfortable to do this, so we avoid it. Within the church today, including VIF, this means that many people simply leave the church rather than speak the truth in love. It also happens when churches have to confront tough issues. Rather than speaking the truth in love, they will tend to keep quiet and let those who are more vocal speak. Dear people, by doing this we allow ourselves to fall into disobedience. Silence and avoidance is not what scripture commands us to do.

In this day, when violence and immorality are rising before us in unprecedented ways, it becomes even more important for God’s people to “speak

the truth” in love. I know that it is risky to speak out, even if we are speaking in love. People can disagree with you, misinterpret you, and therefore malign you. None of us want others to think “ill” of us, but we have a crowd of one to please and that crowd of one is JESUS. If we study the Word of God and pray, when we speak in love we will also be speaking in His character and desire. We must seek to be pleasing in every way to Him and not necessarily to us.

Another important verse comes from **Matthew 10:32-33 (NLT)** ³²*“Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. ³³But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.* In the early years of my life, I understood this passage to mean that I had to make a public confession during the altar call at the end of a service. As I continued to grow in my understanding of the Word, I began to see that it also meant not being ashamed of the Lord in public and therefore seeking to witness to those who are lost. As I have continued to mature, I now see that this also means that I will unashamedly obey all His commands publicly, no matter what the consequences may be. God desires that we acknowledge Him in both word and deed. “Acknowledging Him publicly here on earth,” means that I will live for

Him and not for me. It means that I will lovingly obey Him not because I have to, but because I want to. It means that I will revolve my world around Him and His desires and not mine. For you see, it is all about Him and not about me.

Moving in this direction is not easy. In fact it is very hard because your greatest enemy is yourself. You will have to fight against yourself being the center of your universe. You will have to fight against your desires, conveniences, and even your own understanding. Remember that **Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)** ⁵*Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.* Verse 5 says, “do

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Loving God With All of Your Heart, Mind, and Soul?**
- 2 **Where Can I Find Godly Wisdom? Part II**
- 3-5 **Announcements**
- 6 **Calendar**
- 7 **Sermon**

Valley Isle Fellowship

473 S High St • PO Box 886
Wailuku, HI 96793
808.244.0865(phone) 808.249.0235(fax)
Email: vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com
Website: www.vifmaui.com

Where Can I Find Godly Wisdom? Part II

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

In James 3:13-18, the author writes, “*who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸and a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*”

Last week, we delved into “How Does Godly Wisdom and Meekness Relate?” and we discussed that godly wisdom and meekness are a fruit of a submitted and joyful relationship with the Lord. So, we can know that godly wisdom never appears apart from meekness. So, if that’s the case, then we can know that the presence of attitudes that are opposed to meekness (jealousy and selfish ambition) reveal the lack of godly wisdom.

In fact, if you look at verse 15-16, the absence of godly wisdom will be replaced by “bitter jealousy and selfish ambition.” These attitudes do not come from the Lord but are “earthly, unspiritual, demonic...” and the fruit of this heart condition is “disorder and every vile practice.” You see, we will either have the wisdom of the world or God’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 1-2) and they are diametrically opposed to one another. Each wisdom has a true root (worldly or Godly) and it has its fruit (worldly or godly). The treasure of our hearts determines the fruit of our lives and godly wisdom finds its root in humility and its fruit in righteousness. Godly wisdom knows where true joy is found and seeks it.

Today we will answer the second question brought up in our discussion of this text, “Why is godly wisdom important?” It is important because having godly wisdom implants in us not just the knowledge of righteousness but a desire for righteousness. It imparts in us not just a knowledge of holiness but a desire for holiness and not just a knowledge of true joy but a desire for true joy. Godly wisdom or “...the meekness of wisdom...” produces not just a knowledge but a desire for the things of God and from that knowledge and desire comes fruits that bless not just the individual Christian but those around them. You may know someone with lots of knowledge but when you look at their life, all you see is strife and pride. You may talk to them and hear their wisdom and may have wondered “how can they know so much, yet have so little

character?” The truth is that they do not possess the wisdom of God but of the other kind mentioned in verse 15. You see, we can hide and pretend who we really are but like these verses say, godly wisdom, faith, meekness will present itself in the character of a person. So, It’s important that we understand what godly wisdom is because we can self-diagnose ourselves and easily fool ourselves. Understanding what Godly wisdom is helps us understand that character (i.e. verse 17-¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.) that reveals where my true treasure lies. You see, I can tell you my treasure is Jesus but if I’m full of pride, immorality, argumentative, aggressive, unwilling to listen, harsh, showing favoritism and insincerity, then what I’m really telling you is that the true treasure of my heart is the world. What kind of wisdom I possess is revealed in who I’m becoming like (the world or Jesus). Please don’t overlook the fact that humility and meekness are non-negotiables to pursuing Jesus. Godly wisdom is important because godly wisdom reveals my treasure and protects me from unrighteousness.

But if you’re like me, too often I would rather have my own wisdom because humbling myself and becoming meek is the hardest thing to do because I’m a prideful person. The truth is, the only way we will ever grow in Christ is to die to myself and see Jesus as my joy, as my hope, as my savior, as my strength, as my everlasting companion and Lord, as my redeemer, my friend, my creator and my sustainer...true wisdom is found in losing myself in the glory of my Savior and the putting to death of my desire to be my own savior and sustainer.

Psalm 111:10:

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

continuation from page 1

not depend on your own understanding." When we begin to reason and understand God's Word in a way that violates other portions of scripture rather than harmonizing all of scripture, we run into the danger of proof texting the Lord's desire and will, right out of our lives. When we allow our conveniences to dominate our calendars, we are demonstrating that "we" are the center of our universe. Finally, when we let our desires become the controlling factor in our lives, then it doesn't matter how many times we say we love the Lord, because the truth is that we love ourselves more. This means that we "like" the Lord, but we "love" me (ourselves).

Finally, the real test of Jesus Christ's Lordship in our lives becomes very clear in the difficult times of our lives. When everything is going great and exciting, it is easy to believe that Jesus is Lord of your life. However, when things get really dark and destruction seems to be falling upon you, this is when you can really see if Jesus is your Lord and Master. It is during these times that people who love the Lord with all of their heart, mind, and soul really stand out because they stand in a way that brings glory and honor to their Lord.



As Valley Isle Fellowship, both individually and corporately, faces the challenges that are before us, I pray that we will rise to truly show the world that we do love Jesus with all of our heart, mind, and soul. God bless you all.

child care Schedule

Today

January 11, 2015

Team 1

Jennifer Egami

Elijah Douglas

Corey Egami

Christian Motonaga

Next Week

January 18, 2015

Team 2

Joycelyn Kiaha

Avery Yamada

Marion Kimura

Kaiani Kiaha

Elaine Yamasaki

Daniel Olaso

Today's Worship Songs

Jesus, My Redeemer

Our God

Unfailing Love



Volunteers Needed!

We are in need of people to volunteer to clean our church facilities on High Street. Tasks include:

Sanctuary/3 bathrooms:

1. Vacuum floors
2. Empty rubbish containers
3. Straighten room/dust as needed



Please sign-up in the back or call or email the church office if you'd like to help. We ask that you choose one day of the following: Thursday, Friday, OR Saturday of the week that you are able to volunteer to do the work.

If three people were to volunteer each week, it would take only about an hour or so to complete. By joining together in this task, we can have fellowship, fun, and bring glory and honor to the Lord. Please pray about this need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VERY IMPORTANT DECISIONS

TODAY, you will have one last chance to discuss a few very important concerns that are impacting Valley Isle Fellowship. Today, Jan. 11th, we will be having a Question & Answer session starting at **1 PM** in the High Street Sanctuary. Then, next week, Sunday, Jan. 18th, we will be having a Business Meeting where the members of VIF will be able to vote on two of these concerns. On that Sunday we will be having only **ONE** service at 8:00 AM. ***Then during the 2nd service time, we will not be having any child-care or Sunday School.*** Instead, we will be having a Business Meeting where we will start with a time of prayer and then vote by ballot. This voting is so important that it could mean moving ahead and seeing the financing of our new building in Waikapu become a reality. It could also mean that VIF will have new leadership. Please take very seriously, and pray earnestly, for this Q & A session and the voting that takes place next week.



PHILIPPINE SPRING MISSION 2015- A CALL TO PRAYER

Two Thirds World Network is once again putting together a mission in the Philippines this Spring. Please begin praying how God may use you to impact lives for Jesus Christ in the Philippines. God is amazing the way he uses us to love like Jesus in our backyards and across oceans. Often we go in thinking we will be an instrument in God's Hands to change other's lives when in reality we find that it is our life that is changed. Won't you seriously consider joining us this Spring to see how God can work in miraculous ways for His Glory? We would love to have YOU!!

Tentative Schedule: March 28- April 12, 2015
Mission Focus: EVANGELISM, MEDICAL MISSION, CONSTRUCTION

If interested or would like more information: please contact Vince Bagoyo 357-3842

We are also looking to pack Mission Supply boxes **to be sent by January 15**. Supplies needed for adults and children: Multivitamins, Ibuprofen/Tylenol, cold remedies (non liquid), antibiotic cream, anti allergy medication, and anti diarrheal medication. Thank you so much for your support.

“What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS



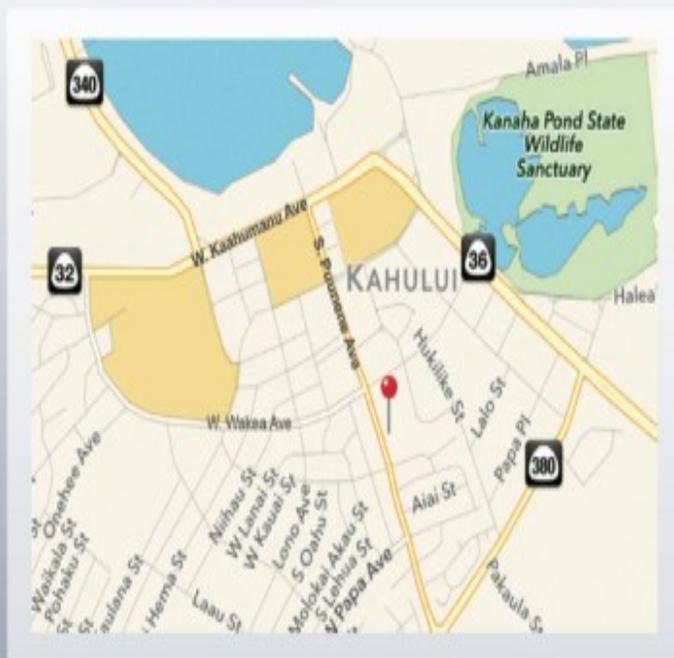
Biblical Counseling Conference



Register by January 2, 2015
Visit www.waterhouselecture.org
or call 732-5561 ext. 204

Funded by the Waterhouse Charitable Trust

Kahului Baptist Church • 309 S. Puunene Avenue



Schedule of Sessions

Friday, January 16

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Registration
- 7:00-7:45 p.m. Session 1: A Biblical Case for Counseling Ministry
- 7:45-8:00 p.m. Break
- 8:00-8:45 p.m. Session 2: What Kind of Problems Do People Have? (Part I)

Saturday, January 17

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00-9:45 a.m. Session 3: What Kind of Problems Do People Have? (Part II)
- 9:45-10:30 a.m. Session 4: Helping People Change (Part I)
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. Session 5: Helping People Change (Part II)
- 11:30 a.m. -12:15 p.m. Session 6: Helping People Change (Part III)
- 12:15-2:00 p.m. Q&A Lunch with Dr. Heath Lambert *



* Q&A Lunch with Dr. Heath Lambert (\$5 admission: includes lunch & Heath Lambert's audio recordings of "The Counseling Lay of the Land" and "Die to Self and Grow in Love.")

** Light refreshments will be provided during registrations and breaks.

Funded by the Waterhouse Charitable Trust

Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

January 2015

- 11 AM - *Pastor Jeremy* - Where Can I Find Godly Wisdom?
1 PM—Q&A Session
PM - *TBA*
- 16 Waterhouse Lecture Series: Biblical Counseling Conference at Kahului Baptist Church
- 17 Waterhouse Lecture Series: Biblical Counseling Conference at Kahului Baptist Church
- 18 8:00 AM - *Pastor Darren* - *TBA*
9:45 AM—Business Session
PM - *TBA*
- 19 **Martin Luther King Jr Day: Office Closed**

¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸and a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

James 3:16-18 (ESV)

Valley Isle Fellowship

ph: (808) 244-0865

www.vifmaui.com

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

1st Service - 8:00 am

Child care available at High Street property

2nd Service - 9:45 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property

Assistant Pastor

Darren Sarmiento

Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro

Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com

121 Hoowaiwai Lp #801

Wailuku, HI96793

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary
473 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

6:00 pm



"Valley Isle Fellowship Church"

Assistant Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro

Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com

The Fruit of Confidence in Christ

Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

What brings believers confidence?

1. The _____ of Christ and His _____... (vs. 19-21)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

What does confidence allow us to do?

2. Let us _____ to God, believing wholly in _____. (vs.22)
3. Let us _____ to our hope and not waver because God _____. (vs.23)

But, because we are human, we _____ drawing near and holding fast...

So, _____ we draw near to God and hold fast to our hope? (vs. 24-25)

1. _____ one another to love and good works.
2. Don't _____ meeting together.
3. _____ one another.
4. Especially as the _____.

So, why is this important?

Perseverance is a _____ project.