

“A SUCCESSFUL LIFE”

Chad Scruggs

Tuesday, November 24, 2015

1. Where does a successful life begin? Reverence for God.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Proverbs 14: 26-27

²⁶ In the fear of the LORD one has strong confidence,
and his children will have a refuge.

²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,
that one may turn away from the snares of death

“You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*)

2. How is a successful life lived? Under God’s Word.

Proverbs 30:5-9

⁵ Every word of God proves true;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

⁶ Do not add to his words,
lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

⁷ Two things I ask of you;
deny them not to me before I die:

⁸ Remove far from me falsehood and lying;
give me neither poverty nor riches;
feed me with the food that is needful for me,

⁹ lest I be full and deny you
and say, “Who is the LORD?”
or lest I be poor and steal
and profane the name of my God.

3. What is the goal of a successful life? A Deeper Relationship with God.

Proverbs 15:3

The eyes of the LORD are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good

Proverbs 16:2

All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes
but the LORD weighs the spirit.

Proverbs 20:9

Who can say, "I have made my heart pure;
I am clean from my sin"?

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man lays a snare,
but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

Questions:

1. Why is moral, practical instruction alone insufficient for a successful life?
2. Do you relate to God more as sovereign and authoritative or personal and warm? How does seeing God as our Father hold both of these crucial characteristics of God together?
3. How does the Fatherhood of God teach us to relate to the Word of God? What habits (disciplines) and attitudes (perspectives) do you need to cultivate in order to faithfully engage God's Word? Share what's been helpful for you in your life so far.
4. The main goal of life is a deeper relationship with God. What other goals become our main goal instead? What about for you personally?
5. What are gospel truths that you need to regularly preach to yourself in order for you to mature in Christ and walk in wisdom?