

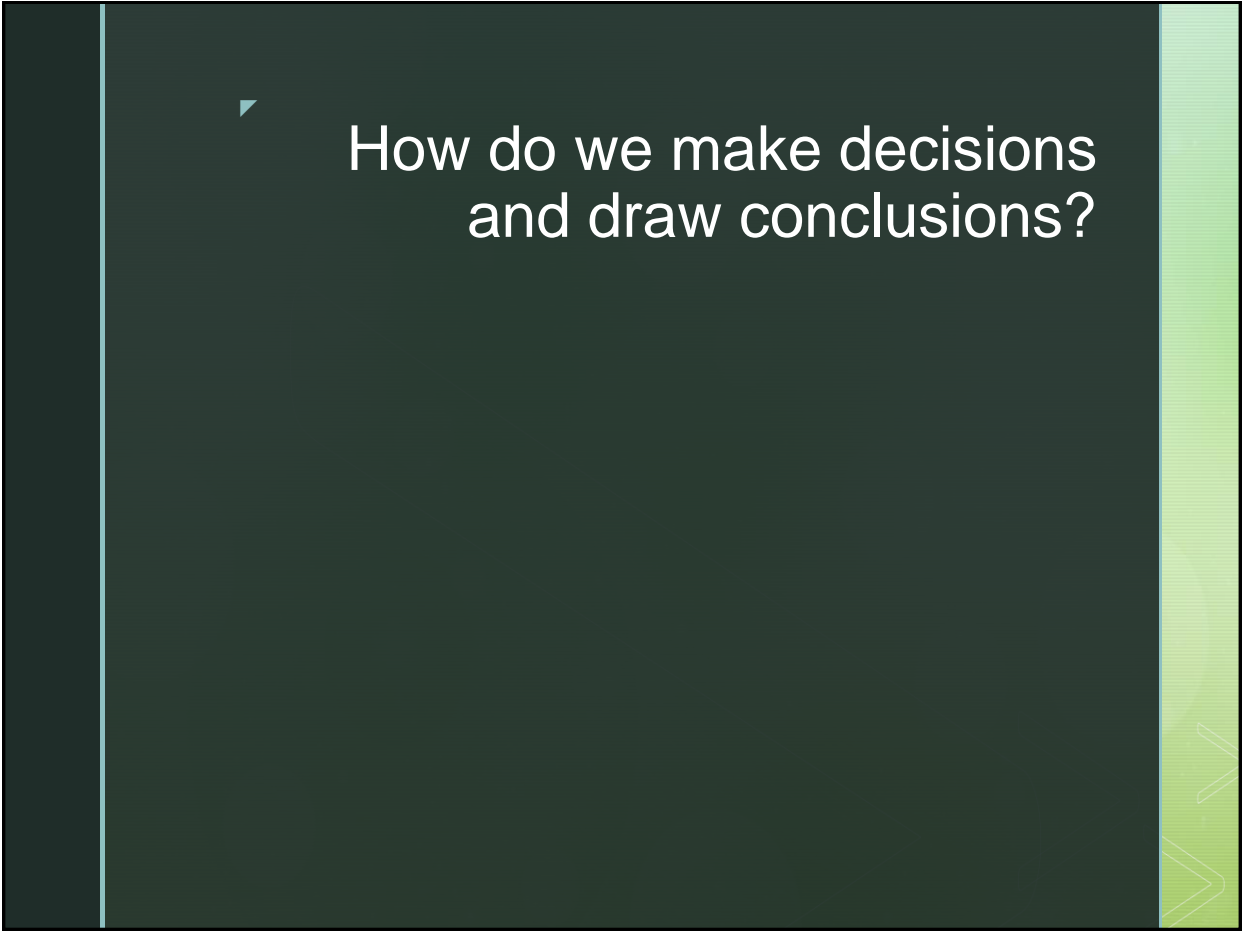


## ▸ Ascending the Hill

Seems Right to Me

# Wisdom

- *Wisdom is living with skill, discipline, and discernment as holy, righteous, loving and faithful citizens of the Kingdom of God through knowing, understanding, and obeying the word of God.*
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 2:2** ... Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **2 Timothy 3:15** ... the holy Scriptures are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful ...
- <sup>NAS</sup> **James 1:5** But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it will be given to him.



How do we make decisions  
and draw conclusions?



## What do you think about ...


- same sex marriage
- divorce and remarriage
- drinking, smoking, drugs
- abortion
- euthanasia
- eternal fate of unbelievers
- equivalency of religions
- joint prayer/worship services with other religions

## The Problem

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling. <sup>19</sup> It is better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud ... <sup>22</sup> ... the discipline of fools is folly. ... <sup>25</sup> There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

## The Wrong Way

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 15:3** And He answered and said to them, "And why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup> "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'He who speaks evil of father or mother, let him be put to death.' <sup>5</sup> "But you say, 'Whoever shall say to his father or mother, "Anything of mine you might have been helped by has been given to God," <sup>6</sup> he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And thus you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

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- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Timothy 6:20** ... guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge" -- <sup>21</sup> which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 2:8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.



## The Promise

- NAS **Proverbs 16:16** How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver. <sup>17</sup> The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life ...<sup>20</sup> He who gives attention to the word shall find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD. <sup>21</sup> The wise in heart will be called discerning, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness. <sup>22</sup> Understanding is a fountain of life to him who has it... <sup>23</sup> The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds persuasiveness to his lips. <sup>24</sup> Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

## The Right Way

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Acts 17:11** Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 119:100** I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Isaiah 8:20** To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

## The Fork in the Road



## Firm and Fruitful

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Psalm 1:1** How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.
- <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish.

# Conclusions



## Keeping His Word

- NAS **Proverbs 16:20** He who gives attention to the word shall find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
- NAS **John 14:23** Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.
- NAS **1 Peter 2:2** like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,  
<sup>3</sup> if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.