

Stability in unstable times. Pt 1

“Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.” Isaiah 33:6

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 4th

Pr. 29:18 remind us of the danger of launching out without a clear “vision” or direction. 1 Tim.

1:19 warns us that going forward without a solid faith and a good conscience can leave us “shipwrecked”! Our text (Isaiah 33) reminds us that pursuing “Wisdom and knowledge” provide “stability and strength of salvation” if “the fear of the LORD is our treasure”

God’s Word provides guidance to help us Navigate challenging cultural currents of our world.

1. Understand What we are! 1 Pt 2:9,11 *“ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...11 As Strangers and pilgrims”*

A. **Chosen** (eklektos’: favored, selected) Jn 15:16 *“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”*

B. **Royal** (basi’leios: kingly in nature) Ro 8:16-17 *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”* (See also 2 Pt 1:4)

C. A **Priesthood**. (hierateu’ō: busied in sacred duties) 1 Pt 2:5 *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”*

D. **Holy** (hagios: sacred, consecrated, set apart.)

1 Thes. 4:3 *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification”* hagasmos’: holiness, purification

2 Cor 6:17 *“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father...”*

D. **Peculiar** (peripoi’ēsis: a purchased, precious possession) 1 Pt 1:18-19 *“ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, ... But with the precious blood of Christ”*

E. **Strangers** (par’oikos: aliens) **and Pilgrims** (parepid’ēmos: foreign travelers) 1 Jn 3:1 *“the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”* (see also John 15:18-20; Phil. 3:20)

2. Understand Where we are! We are in a:

A. **Deceitful** World contaminated by Sin. Jn 8:44; 2 Cor. 4:4; 11:3; 2 Cor 4:4 1 Jn 5:19 *“we know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedness.”* (See also 1 Jn 2:15-17)

B. **Dark** World. Phil 2:14-15 *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world”* (also Mt. 5:14-16)

C. **Dangerous** World. (1 John 5:19)

1) Internal Dangers. Gal. 5:17; Ro 7:18; 1 Pt. 2:11 *“abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul”*

2) External Dangers. (Eph. 6:10-18; 2 Tim. 2:3,4) 1 Pt 5:8,9 *“Your adversary the devil...”*

Conclusion:

Proverbs 29:18 *"Where there is no vision, the people perish but he that keepeth the law happy is he."*

Eph. 5:17,18 *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

What is God's "vision" (Will) for us?

He wants us to understand

- **What we are (in Him)! 1 Pt 2:9,11** *"ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;... as strangers and pilgrims"*
Phil. 2:15a *"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke..."*
- **Where we are! (What we're up against) 1 Pt 2:9** *"called you out of darkness"*
Philippians 2:15b *"in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation"*
- **Why we are. 1 Pt 2:9** *"To show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light"*
Phil. 2:15,16 *"among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life..."*

Application:

God wants us to find Stability in these Unstable Times

Is 33:6 *"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability ('ēmûnâ: faith) of thy times"*

Where do you find your Stability?

(From God's wisdom and word, or the worlds? (Col 2:3; James 3:13-18)

and strength (hōsen: wealth) of salvation: (y'šû'â: {Jesus!} deliverance)

Where do you find your Strength & Security?

Pr 18:10 *"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."*

Is 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

The fear of the LORD is his treasure. ('ôšār': armory, storehouse)

Where do you find your Storehouse?

Pr. 10:22 *"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."*

Pr. 14:26 *"In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence:
and his children shall have a place of refuge."*

Pr 22:4 *"By humility and the fear of the LORD
are riches, and honor, and life."*