MODERN LIFE:

WHAT NEXT?

(decision making and the will of God)

Welcome, if you've just joined us for the first time, or if you're just visiting. You're in for a funny bit of a treat today. What I hope to do today, is share with you about our church, where we've been, and where we're going. We don't do this often, but every now and then it's good to stop, and take a look at how things have developed, and where we see things are going.

Where/what should I study?

Who should I date/marry?

Should I change jobs?

Who should I vote for?

Should I stay or should I go?

What should I do about _____?

PARALYSES OF ANALYSIS

FOOLS RUSH IN

Paralysis of Analysis — Stuck, and not moving, because there are too many variables.

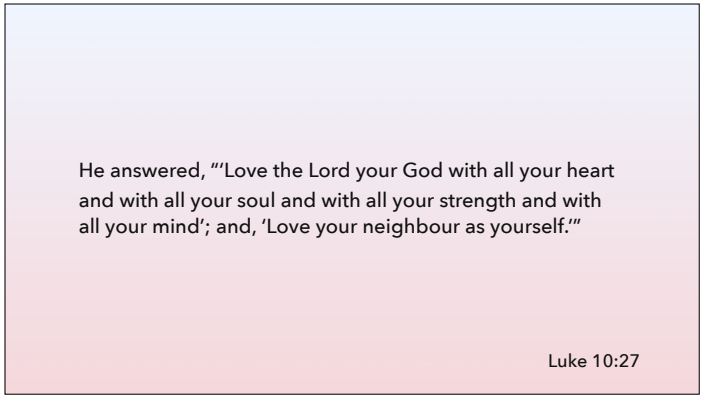
Fools Rush In — Just do whatever feels good, without thinking

Weighing up the risks for so long, nothing happens.
Not weighing the risks at all, you just do it.

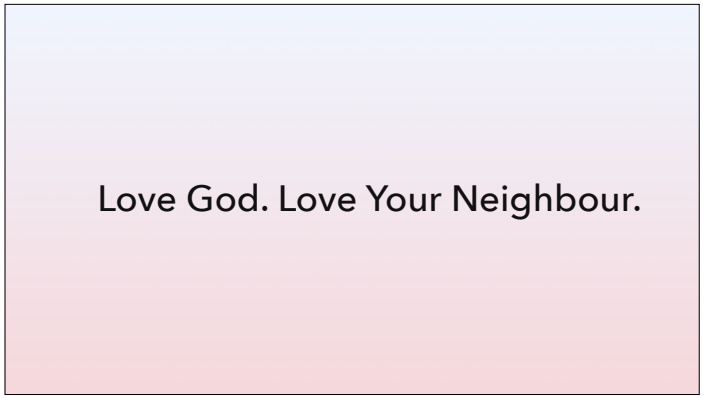
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

It's a natural following on from a society that is completely raised by mass media. And it's no wonder that so much of it started out of Los Angeles, and the hollywood scene, where fame.

Selfie isn't just about ourselves, but it's about the image that we want portrayed to the world around us.



He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"



Don't do things that counteract these things.

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

What should I study? What should I do? Where should I go? How will I survive.

Don’t run after these things….
God’s Kingdom.

Seek God’s Kingdom.
Seek what is good for God.

Don’t do things that counteract these things.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24

Colossians 3:23 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Live and Work, as if it's for God.

Live and Work as if it's for God.
In other words, work hard. Don't be lazy.
But know that God sees the work and the labour, he also sees the injustice in your workplace

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 6:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Don’t stop doing good.

Don’t stop doing good.
In other words, if you’re struggling

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God**–this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is–his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

Romans 12:1,2

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1. You are not your own. Surrender your life plan, and say okay, God — I TRUST YOU. I belong to you.

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1. Love God? Loving to your Neighbour?
2. God's Kingdom glory?
3. Doing your work?
4. Doing Good?
5. Surrendering to God?

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External Selfie

An external demonstration of how we want to be perceived.

Internal Selfie

An internal attitude of ourselves by which we judge the world around us

If an external selfie is how we want the world to perceive us.
An internal selfie is the lens by which we judge the world.

It is a skewed self-portrait by which we

An external demonstration of
how we want to be perceived.

An unexpressed attitude of how we

SPECIFIC PRINCIPLES

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1. Seek Wise Counsel

Don't do things that counteract these things.

Proverbs 11:14
For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisers.

Proverbs 18:1
Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire;
he breaks out against all sound judgement.

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4. A prayer for future career
God, let me seek those who know me, open my eyes to the wider circumstances, let me talk with brothers and sisters, and let your Spirit lead me into truth.

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2. Teachable Heart

Don't do things that counteract these things.

Psalm 86:11
Teach me your way, O LORD; I will walk in your truth: unite my heart to fear your name.

James 4:1
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

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4. A prayer for dealing with people
God, let me seek those who know me, open my eyes to the wider circumstances, let me talk with brothers and sisters, and let your Spirit lead me into truth.

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3. Prayer & Submitting to God

Don’t do things that counteract these things.

Philippians 4:6
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4. A prayer for future spouse
God, let me seek those who know me, open my eyes to the wider circumstances, let me talk with brothers and sisters, and let your Spirit lead me into truth.

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4. Step in faith

The peace of God, making decisions to move forward

12 When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, 13 he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. 14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" 15 Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

Esther 4:12-16

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Esther 4:12

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding–
3 indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
4 and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

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6 For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
7 He holds success in store for the upright,
he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,
8 for he guards the course of the just
and protects the way of his faithful ones.
9 Then you will understand what is right and just
and fair–every good path.
10 For wisdom will enter your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.
11 Discretion will protect you,
and understanding will guard you.

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God's plan for us, is not a static image.
God's plan for us is life.
It's not static.

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God's plan for us is life. It's not static.

Life involves us growing, learning, developing, struggling, weeping, mourning, crying, laughing, trusting, changing, and so much more.

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**Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said, “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.”