

Title: AGELESS PRINCIPLES
(Chatham, NJ; 10/11/15, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: Seeking wisdom, doing good, and walking humbly are ageless principles that lead people in a life of godliness in any time.

Purpose: To encourage us to live by all of these things.

Introduction:

1. The Word of God is not only sharper than a two-edged sword, but it is also an ageless source of wisdom.
2. The spiritual nature of man has not changed since the beginning.
3. The words of scripture have addressed our most basic spiritual needs despite the age of these writings.
4. Today we consider three of the ageless principles revealed in the Bible, the Word of God.

I. The Song of Moses, Psalm 90

- A. Wisdom to number our days, 12
 1. Begins with the nature of God, 1-4
 2. God transcends time; he is ageless
 3. A long time to us is nothing to God, 4
 4. By contrast, our time is limited on this earth, 10
 5. Moses prayer asks for the wisdom to make use of the short time we have
 6. Furthermore, he asks for love (14), joy (15), revelation (16), also favor and meaningful labor (17).
 7. All of these come from recognizing our mortality.
- B. Yet the Gospel gives us a newer and better perspective
 1. The resurrection gives us a solid view of eternity
 2. We will not all sleep, but we'll be changed, 1 Corinthians 15:51
 3. The dead will be raised imperishable, 52
 4. Mortality will put on immortality, 53
 5. We won't need the wisdom to number our days since they will never end
 6. The perishable will put on the imperishable, 54
 7. Death will be swallowed up.
 8. Through Moses God offered wisdom; through Christ he offers eternity.

II. Seek the Lord, Seek Good, Amos 5:4-7

- A. Amos, the prophet who wasn't a prophet, Amos 7:14
 1. During the reign of Jeroboam II in Israel
 2. Like most of the northern kings, he did evil
 3. Amos confronted Israel with her sins
 4. Among other things they had perverted justice and rejected righteousness, 5:7
 5. They hated correction and abhorred anyone who dared speak the truth
 6. Several times he warns them to seek good and turn from evil, 4, 6, 14, 15
 7. Not doing these things doomed them to judgment and destruction
- B. God sought us
 1. The good shepherd has gone to the trouble of seeking us: he lays down his life for the sheep
 2. We have an even greater opportunity to escape the judgment reserved for those who don't seek God and do good
 3. Peter (Acts 2:40) exhorts his listeners: "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation."

4. The Gospel is the new plan for seeking him and seeking good.
5. Amos' exhortations to "seek good and not evil," and "hate evil, and love good," come in the words of the Gospel of salvation
6. His words carry even more weight today because God has provided the means and the power to do this
7. Through Christ we put off sin and put on righteousness

III. Humility Is Better than Pride

- A. The first shall be last and the last first, Mark 10:31
 1. In the Kingdom of God, the order of importance is reversed
 2. In this same chapter he rebukes the disciples for seeking prestige and power
 3. He told those who sought the best places at feasts to seek the lower places
 4. Romans 12:3 exhorted everyone "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment."
 5. Naaman was insulted that that he only had to do something as humiliating as washing in the Jordan river, but eventually he humbled himself to the task
 6. Of the two son Jesus talked about one refused his father's order to work in the fields but eventually he submitted
- B. Kingdom living rewards the humble not the proud
 1. James 4:1 and 1 Peter 5:5 both remind their audiences that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
 2. 1 Corinthians 12 assures the Corinthians that no one can claim a greater sense of importance in the body of Christ
 3. The great news of the Gospel is that we have a savior who humbled himself to become a servant
 4. We are called to the same humility

Conclusion:

1. The wisdom to number our days and use what time we have wisely is still important.
2. Maybe more so now because we have eternity to think about
3. Seek good and hate evil will always be the mantra of a righteous person.
4. Do this and you will live.
5. Humble yourself under God's hand, and he will lift you up.
6. Follow Christ's example of service.
7. Obey the Gospel: these principles find their fulfillment in it.