

Growing in wisdom in the use of the internet and social media

Our working definition of wisdom during this series has been as follow:

Knowing the right thing to do or say at the right time and in the right way.

1. Our engagement with the Internet

What do you think about the suggestion that the internet is:

- a place where we consume
- a place where we connect
- a place where we produce

What do you regularly consume on the internet?

How or who do you connect with using the internet?

What do you produce on the internet?

Would you describe yourself as a digital numpty, digital visitor or digital resident?

Explain your answer

Digital visitors pop on to the internet for a specific purpose, much like popping into a shop, to check something out, to book something, to read something and then they drop off again once the task is done.

Digital residents are those who live their lives online – not in a negative way – other language is that they are digital natives – those for whom it is simply second nature

Theologian David Wells suggests we cannot be **digital monks**.

Are there any good Christian podcasts, websites, blogs that you use?

With regards to your internet & social media usage, Tony Reinke (Author of the book 12 ways that your mobile phone is changing you) suggests that we undertake an act of courageous self-criticism by answering the following two questions:

Does my online behaviour and engagement move me towards God or away from him?

Does my online behaviour and engagement edify me and others, or do they build nothing of lasting value?

How do we learn to discern 'what is worthless and what is worthy, what is artificial and what is authentic' on the internet?

2. Our engagement with the word of God

Read Psalm 1 together

What do you think about the statement that:

'what we consume and who we connect with dictates what we produce'

Regarding v1:

- Theologian Warren Wiersbe says - 'If you follow the wrong counsel, then you will stand with the wrong companions and finally sit with the wrong crowd.'

- Theologian Derek Kidner suggests there is a journey from thinking to behaving to belonging

Sitting implies being entrenched – would you describe any of your attitudes or ways of thinking as being entrenched? If so, looking at this psalm how do you think you can change your thinking?

This wisdom psalm raises the question of who our conversation partners are - who are you connecting with & what content are you consuming?

V2 Blessed is the person who delights in the laws of the Lord,
Who meditates on his law day and night

The word meditate is in the imperfect tense – it is an ongoing action that is not finished - it speaks of constant practice – **he keeps meditating**

meditation means muttering or murmuring

How do you engage with the word - how do you keep it alive in your life?

Do you have a favorite portion of scripture?

Do you have any scripture memorized? If so, why that passage?

Is there a passage of scripture that you could memorise or would like to memorise?

“How can God bring to mind a scripture if the scripture was not put into the mind in the first place” - What do you think about this statement?

Have you ever had an occasion when the Lord has brought a piece of scripture to mind?

V3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water

The tree has been intentionally planted - how do you keep yourself intentionally watered?

This psalm says that there is a way in which we can become like a tree that produces fruit.

What fruit would you like to see grow in your life?

Is there anything you have had to wait patiently for?

Would you describe yourself as a biblical resident or a biblical visitor?

What can you do to become a biblical resident?

Take time to pray together and thank God for his Word and his Spirit that he has given us to lead us into all truth.