


# The Preference for Life

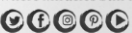
## Newsletter – February / March, 2022



"It has been expressed that the difficulty in life is not distinguishing between white and black but determining between the different shades of grey. It is not simply an entrenchment of intellectual capabilities, but of moral standards and insight that we must go after. In our fellowships, recreations, literature, and business, we urgently need the understanding heart, which listens for and heeds to the voice of God, as being our ultimate guide and authority in all our conduct."

Excerpt from Newsletter  
*The Preference for Life*  
by Pr. Teddy Santos  
February / March 2022

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**1 Kings 3:7-9** *"Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

Our life's course will always turn out for the best when we are determined to put the essential things first. Riches, fame, honor, and exceeding our competitors are not the top things for consideration. It could result that our judgment may be tarnished, and our vision distorted. Because Solomon sought and desired God's glory and kingdom, The Lord additionally gave him things that he did not ask for, as mentioned in **1Kings 3:13** *"And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days."* I find it also very reminiscent of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ when He instructed us to *"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* **Matthew 6:33.**

Impressed by the massiveness of his duties, the young king went to Gibeon to worship God. He desired to accomplish his responsibilities to their highest measure, but he was cognizant of his inefficiency. Have you ever felt the same? You might feel like a child and "know not how to go out or come in." You discover life's opportunities and obligations in this interesting period of time we live in and desire to be of service to God and your fellow man, but what could you do?

"Going out" stands for the engaged life in this busy world; "coming in" stands for hours spent in residence, recreation, and community. It is compared to the systole and diastole of a human heart, which should be synonymous with consecration to God and service to one another.

Solomon requested an understanding heart that could discern between good and bad. And not just Solomon but all of us need this capability, that we may distinguish between things that appear very much alike but are different in character and focus. The Word of God says in *Hebrews 5:14* *"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* Equally in *Philippians 1:9-10*, God's Word says: *"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,"*

It has been expressed that the difficulty in life is not distinguishing between white and black but determining between the different shades of grey. It is not simply an entrenchment of intellectual capabilities but of moral standards and insight that we must go after. In our fellowships, recreations, literature, and business, we urgently need the understanding heart, which listens for and heeds to the voice of God, as being our ultimate guide and authority in all our conduct.

The Bible says that Solomon sacrificed a thousand burnt offerings upon the altar (*1Kings 3:4*). We are commanded to present our bodies as living sacrifices unto The Lord, which is our reasonable service (*Romans 12:1*). Our calling is often determined by either our circumstances or by our unique gifts and skills, and, in general, we succeed best in doing what we enjoy the most. But if we **FULLY** surrender ourselves to the will of God, He will direct our paths. In closing, I leave you with the written words of King Solomon found in *Pro 3:5-6*: *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."*

At His service,  
Pr. Teddy Santos