

## **Guardrails: To Protect & Direct**

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10.2.2016  
Ephesians 5:15-18

### **SAY WHAT? The wisdom of guardrails**

Proverbs 4:23, *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

### **SO WHAT? Protection & direction**

Proverbs 20:1, *Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.*

Romans 12:2, *Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God—what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.*

### **NOW WHAT? Establishing guardrails in my life**

- What are some major pitfalls, disasters, or danger zones you know you want to avoid in your life?
- Do you have guardrails established in each of these major areas? (financially, relationally, morally, professionally, physically, etc.)

## Connection Group Questions

Taken from the sermon on October 2, 2016

### ***Guardrails: To Protect and Direct***

***Church family, for the next few weeks we, as a church body, are going to be tackling a series called "Guardrails: avoiding regrets in your life", and we hope you will join us! This evening, Connection Groups will be meeting to get started. It is not too late for you to join in and get your materials for this thought-provoking study! Please see our Connection Pastor, Bryan Choate, in the Connection Center to help you with that.***

***In lieu of our normal format for Connection Group Questions, we will be posting the questions here (from the study guide) that you will need to have answered for that week's discussion/study. For the intro, today, we would like for you to consider the following questions:***

- If you were to apply the term "guardrail" to your life, how would you define it?
- From your past, what are some of the situations / trials / struggles that you now realize that, if you had a spiritual "guardrail" in place at that time, you might have avoided pain, shame or regret?
- When it comes to sin and self control, what do you most struggle with today, and what types of disasters do you especially need to guard against? Be sure to consider all aspects of your life; relationally, financially, professionally, morally, and ethically.
- Can you count on God's protection in these areas?

### **FOR DEEPER STUDY:**

**Please read the following passages: Psalm 91:1-16; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:10-18; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Timothy 2:15.**

Do you believe that gaining self-control and His protection in your life requires action on your part, God's part, or both?

What are the things God calls us to "do" in these few passages?

From Psalm 91, what must we do first prior to His "covering"?

How is Peter's instruction to be "watchful" applicable to setting up mental roadblocks (guardrails)? How do these serve as personal standards of behavior that we commit to so that we do not veer off the road of righteousness and into the ditch of disaster?

***Living the way God desires takes commitment and action on our part.***

***Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways! You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently. Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes! ...***