

**Hungering for God**  
**Hungering for Guidance**  
**Psalm 23, Romans 8:12-17, 28-39, Philippians 2:12-13**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** One of the things we hunger for is 'logistical' guidance—what career to choose, whom to marry, where to live.

**I) Why do we hunger for 'logistical' guidance?**

**A) We have been mistaught about what to expect**

What sort of guidance does the Bible guarantee?

*Ps 23.3: He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake...*

*Romans 8.14: For all who are led by the Spirit are the children of God.*

**B) Our priorities are off**

We want career and clarity now.

God wants character and community in due time

Romans 8.29: ...conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the firstborn of many brothers

**C) We would rather not 'own' our decisions**

Phil. 2.12: ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...

God wants us to mature

**D) We are looking for assurance in the wrong place**

Life can be very difficult and confusing

Grounds for our assurance:

- God's character
- God's cross

**II) How we make logistical decisions**

We trust

We consult humbly

We play in bounds

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- 2) What sorts of guidance does the Bible describe? What sorts of guidance does the Bible promise to all believers?
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- 4) Why are we often more interested in career and marital guidance than moral and spiritual guidance? Why does God make a priority of the latter?
- 5) Read Philippians 2:12-13. What new situation are the readers facing? Why does the new situation require them to “work out their own salvation” (that is, ‘work out the practical implications of their faith’)?
- 6) Some people distinguish between God’s “OK will” and God’s “perfect will”—especially when it comes to marrying. Why is this an unspiritual, irresponsible, and untrusting way to think about that choice—or any choice?
- 7) We need assurance in an often confusing and hostile world that God loves us. Where, according to Psalm 23 and Romans 8:32, do we find that assurance? Why is it important to find assurance in these things rather than in knowing the answers to your logistical questions?
- 8) Reflect on the following: “Life is full of important decisions that the Bible does not directly address. When making such decisions we need (1) to trust that God loves us, (2) to consult humbly with God and others before we decide, (3) make the decisions ourselves, but do so within the boundaries established by God’s revealed law and purposes.”

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We want career and clarity now.

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Romans 8.29: ...conformed to the image of his Son that he might be the firstborn of many brothers

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**D) We are looking for assurance in the wrong place**

Life can be very difficult and confusing

Grounds for our assurance:

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- God's cross

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We consult humbly

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