

- Prov. 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
 And do not lean on your own understanding.
- Prov. 4:5a Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! (cf. 4:7)

Yours vs. God's





- Heading home thru Galilee (30)
 - •Trying to keep it quiet, in order to teach His disciples (31)
 - Delivered into the hands of men
 - They will kill Him
 - He will rise three days later

- But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him (32)
 - •Why? (perhaps 8:14-21; 31-33)
- Then Jesus questioned them (33)
 - And they kept silent (34)
 - •Why?

- •While Jesus was talking about His crucifixion, they had discussed which of them was the greatest (34)
 - Peter, James, John? (5:37; 9:2)
 - •Peter? (8:29)

- •Jesus took a seat as the Rabbi (35)
 - •"If anyone desires..." (see 8:34)
 - Counterculture (see Matt. 23:6-7)
 - Counter-human (cf. Mark 7:21-23)
 - •He doesn't correct the *desire* but the *standard* (cf. Matt. 23:12)

- Man's wisdom: Exalt yourself! Press your rights! Take control!
- •God's wisdom: humble yourself, serve others (see Phil. 2:3)
 - Even a child (or someone like a child) (36)
 - This attitude invites fellowship with God



- •Did this prick John's conscience? (38)
 - "We saw someone...and tried to prevent him because he was not following us"
 - •This is a *natural* response (John 3:26-30; Num. 11:26-29)

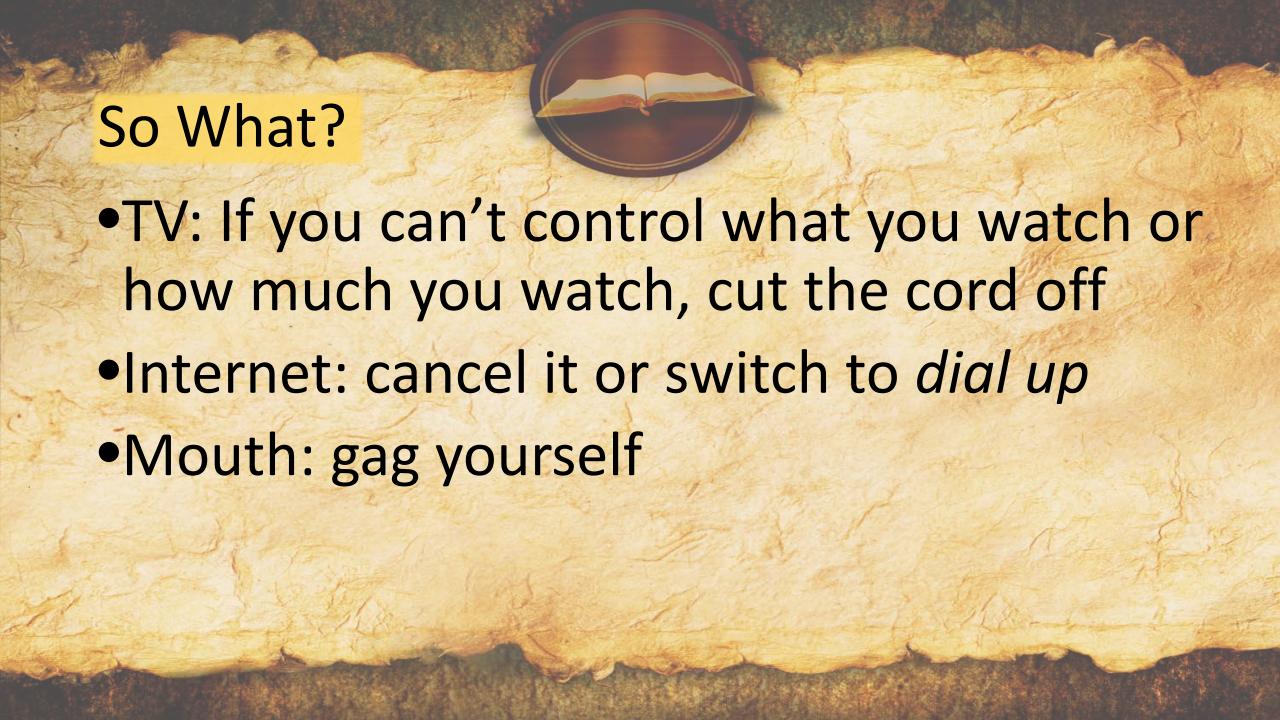
- •God's wisdom:
 - "He who is not against us is for us" (40)
 - •New standard: actions, not association
 - •Even a simple cup of water because you are Christ's will be rewarded (41)
 - Don't be exclusive / sectarian

- •Better good (e.g. the good soil, 4:8)
 - •OT (LXX): Gen. 1:12; 3:1-7
 - •"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord Than great treasure and turmoil with it." (Prov. 15:16)
 - Value: good from God's perspective



- A gruesome death is better than leading a weak believer into sin (42)
 - By instruction or example
 - •Romans 14:1-15:12; 1 Cor. 10:23-33
 - •A servant of all wouldn't do that (35)

- •If your hand causes you to stumble...(43)
 - Don't take this literally!
 - •The hand or the heart? (Mark 7:21-23)
 - Deal with sin in your life; pursue holiness
 - Radically, if necessary
 - Put it to death! (Col. 3:1-5)



"Yeah, But..."

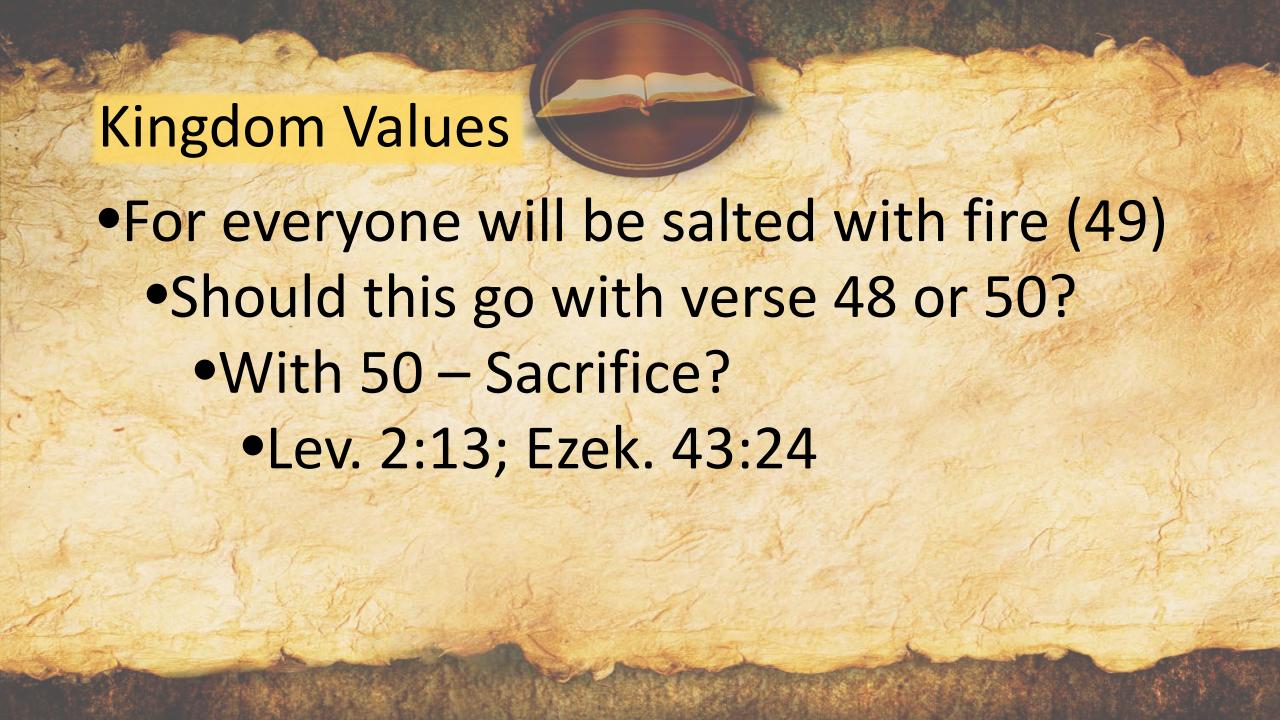
- •"...that's behavior modification!"
- No, it's mind renewal with Godly wisdom, which should change your behavior
- Our behavior should reflect God's ways & understanding (see Prov. 2; Ps. 111:10)
- We need to trust and obey (Prov. 3:5)

"Yeah, But..."

- "...the cost is too great!"
 - That's for you to decide
 - But Jesus says it's not
 - •And Jesus says those who would follow behind Him must deny themselves, or lose all and be ashamed (8:34-37)



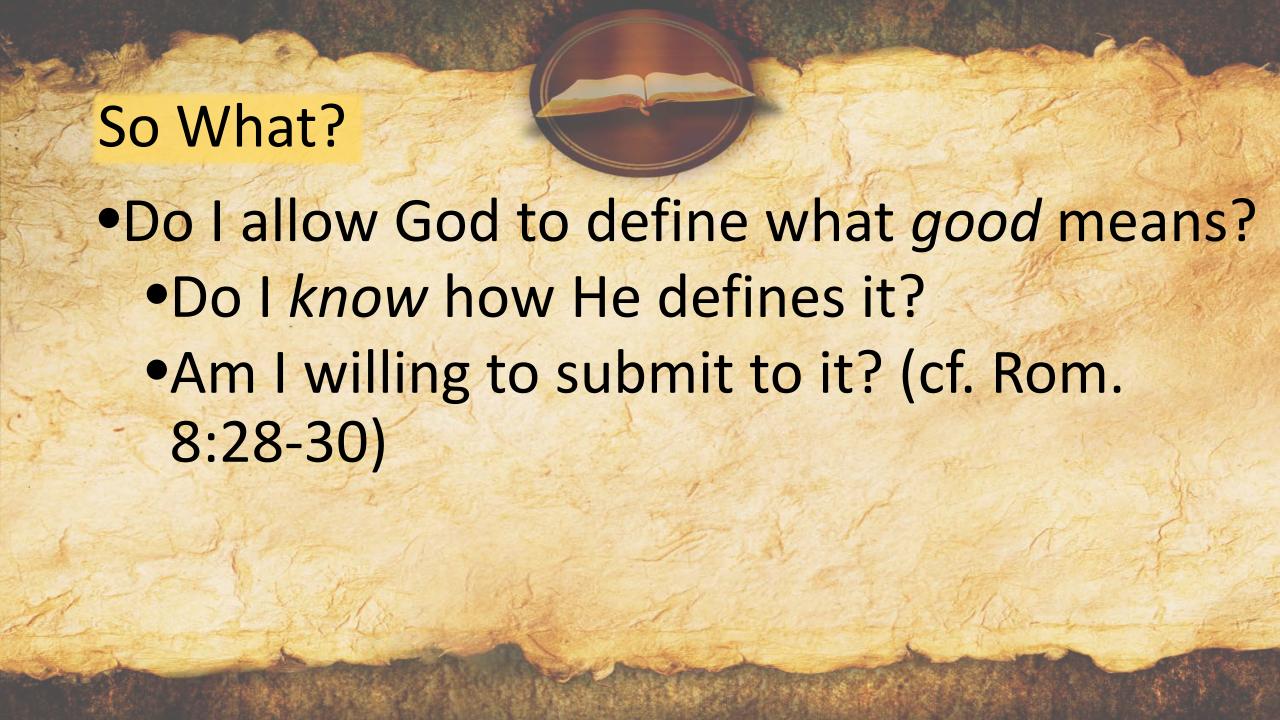
- •For everyone will be salted with fire (49)
 - Should this go with verse 48 or 50?
 - •With 48 everyone in hell?
 - •Flavored?
 - Preserved by fire? (for eternity)

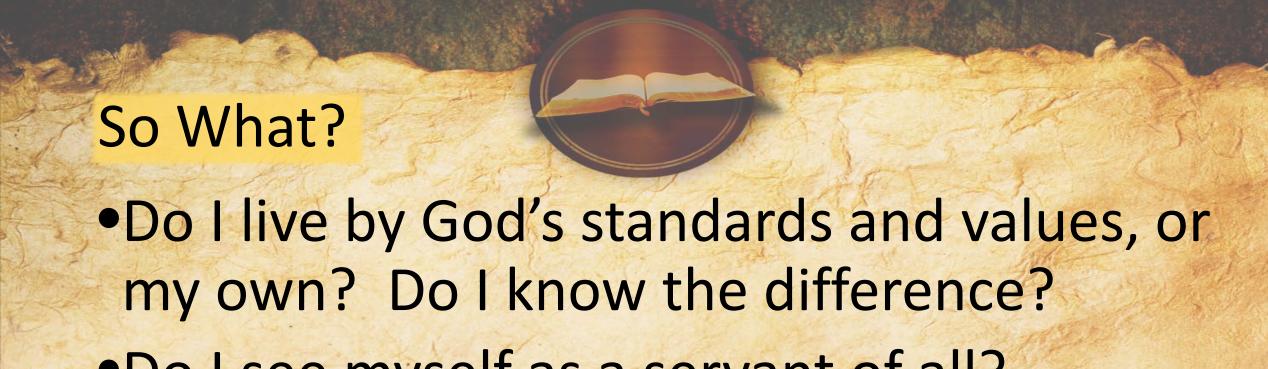


- •For everyone will be salted with fire (49)
 - Connected with stumbling? (43, 45, 47)
 - •Salt and fire -> purification (Num. 31:21-23; 2 Kings 2:21; Mal. 3:2; 1 Pet. 1:6-7)
 - •We will all experience fiery trials that will purify us (i.e. help us deny 8:34)

- •The disciples just exhibited selfish ambition (34) and sectarianism (38)
- The purifying fire would expose all their wrong values
- •They will need to deal radically with what will be exposed (42-48)

- •What would you use to season salt? (50)
 - Pure salt is useful; tainted salt is useless
- Have salt in yourselves (cf. Matt. 5:13)
 - Godly character, motives, values
- Be at peace with one another
 - Back to verse 34?





- •Do I see myself as a servant of all?
 - Or is my focus on me and my comfort and desires?