1. **Introduction:** 
   1. **A time of year to consider our wise and foolish decisions of the past.**
   2. **A time of year we often resolve to exercise wisdom in the year to come.**
   3. **How does our Creator help us in His revealed will to live wisely and righteously? We need to turn from…**
2. **Doubting & Denying The Existence of God**
   1. **It is the fool that says “There is no God!”** (Psalms 14:1-3)
   2. **Can’t ignore the evidence!** (Romans 1:20-23)
   3. **Avoiding “respectable atheism”** -
   4. Confessing we believe in God but not acting like it. (Psalms 94:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:5)
   5. Rather: **Build up your faith with study, evidence, and practice!**
   6. **The wise man comes to a rational conclusion based on the evidence**
3. **Focusing On The External**
   1. **Why do we think God sees as man sees?** (Luke 11:39-41)
   2. **We can be tempted to look at things “outwardly”.** (2 Corinthians 10:7)
   3. **Thinking God is like us?** (Psalms 50:21)
   4. **Rather, focus on the “unseen”** (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)… **on our hearts** (James 4:8), **remembering who made us**! (Psalms 100:3)
   5. **The wise man uses the eyes of His heart & not his head**
4. **Becoming Arrogant/Rejecting Authority**
   1. **“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes…”** (Proverbs 12:15; cf., Jeremiah 10:23)
   2. **Aaron and Miriam** (Numbers 12:11) and **King Saul** (1 Samuel 13:13) **realized too late**.; cf., Romans 12:3; 1 Corinthians 4:6)
   3. **Rather, blessed is the meek or gentle spirit that yields to the will of God**. (Matthew 5:5; cf., James 1:21)
   4. **The wise man receives God’s word in Humility**
5. **Focuses On What God Did Not Reveal**
   1. **There are “foolish questions”.** (2 Timothy 2:23-25)
   2. **What are “speculations”?**
   3. **God revealed what we need!** (Deuteronomy 29:29; 1 Corinthians 2:12)
   4. **Rather, focus on what we can understand by using our precious time wisely**.   
      (Ephesians 5:17)
   5. **The wise man walks by Faith according to what God did say**
6. **Remains In Ignorance**
   1. **It’s not foolish to ever be ignorant, only to remain so!** (Jeremiah 5:4; 4:22)
   2. **Ignorance kills!** (Hosea 4:6; 2 Peter 2:12)
   3. **Rather, value the instruction that comes from God**. (Proverbs 1:7)
   4. **The wise man seeks knowledge from God**
7. **Focusing On Temporal & Lacks Contentment**
   1. **Where is “great gain” found? (1 Timothy 6:6-10)**
   2. **Key is “godliness” plus “contentment”.**
   3. **We are also foolish when our treasures are on earth.** (Luke 12:20-21; cf., Psalms 49:11-13)
   4. **Thinks what is to come is like what it is now!** (1 Corinthians 15:35-37, 42-44; 1 John 3:1-3; 2 Peter 3:10-13)
   5. **Rather, make our investments spiritual** (Ephesians 5:17) **& learn to be content. (**Philippians 4:11)
   6. **The wise man’s treasures are beyond this life**
8. **Becomes Indifferent & Complacent**
   1. **How do we avoid “the complacency of fools”?**(Proverbs 1:32-33)
   2. **Keep “pressing on”** (Philippians 3:12-14) **and don’t turn back to the things of the flesh!** (Galatians 3:1-5; 4:9)
   3. **Rather, we need to be zealous and stirred up by God’s word and each other.**
   4. **The wise man Keeps Pressing on**