**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, October 29, 2017**

**Sermon Title: Stewardship Series: Livin’ the Dream**

**Free**

**Scripture: Proverbs 22:1-9** 1A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold. 2Rich and poor have this in common: The Lord is the Maker of them all. 3The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. 4Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life. 5In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them. 6Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. 7The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender. 8Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. 9The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

**Galatians 5:1, 13-15 (*NIV*)** 1It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

13You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

**Take Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding and my entire will, all I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me. Amen.** *(Saint Ignatius of Loyola)*

**Basic Theme: *Chasing the American Dream is part of our culture. Livin’ the Dream consists of a house, car, white picket fence, marriage, 2.5 kids, and a good job to pay for it all. Work hard, pay your taxes, accumulate much, and leave a little something for your family when your time on earth is done. Many have sacrificed everything to achieve it only to discover that when they “arrive,” one question still looms… “Is there more to life than livin’ the dream?” What if Christians began chasing a different dream? How would our lives and our world change if our dream was to love deeply, serve humbly, forgive mercifully, give generously, and follow Jesus passionately?***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Our culture drives us to attain material possessions that we think we own. The reality is that our possessions often end up owning us. Jesus Christ came to set at liberty the captives… to set us free from the bondage of sin and liberate us from the chains of this world. When we become hoarders of God’s blessings we submit ourselves to captivity. Faith in Jesus Christ sets us free and we have a choice how we use that freedom! Because God has graciously gifted is with this freedom, we should be compelled to generously give to God so that other prisoners can be redeemed.**

**So What? Are you a slave to the American Dream? Are you livin’ the dream that has put you back into bondage? Why? Do you want to become generous? Are there practical steps that you can take to begin the path to freedom so that you can grow into a generous steward of God’s blessings? Do you want a different dream or are you satisfied livin’ the dream that has been imposed upon you by our culture of materialism? The choice is yours!**