**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, August 30, 2015**

**Sermon Title: Three Simple Rules: A Wesleyan Way of Living**

 **Always, Stay In Love With God**

**Scripture: Colossians 2:6-8 *(New International Version)***

6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. 8See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=colossians+2&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29503a)] of this world rather than on Christ.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 111**

Leader: God’s handiwork is honesty and justice; all God’s rules are trustworthy.

**People: God’s rules are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.**

Leader: God sent redemption for his people; God commanded that his covenant last forever.

**All: Holy and awesome is God’s name!**

 **Basic Theme: *In a complicated and uncertain world, John Wesley discovered there is a way to bring faith and practice into a harmony of faithful living. His practice included acts of piety, mercy, and justice that resulted in a renewed love for God and neighbor. Those who followed his way of living discovered that it changed their lives, and in turn changed the world around them.* – Rueben P. Job, July 2014**

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Can a faithful Christian life really be relegated down to *Three Simple Rules*? Maybe it isn’t that simple, but it sure is a good place to start. The third rule: Stay in Love with God! King David pleaded with God to restore unto him the joy of his salvation. Rather than having it restored, our prayer should be that we never lose it in the first place. How do we stay in love with God. Wesley taught these as imperative actions: public and private worship, the Lord’s Supper, prayer, searching of scripture, Bible study, and fasting.**

**So What? Has there ever been a time in your life where you could say, “I’m in love with God?” If not, what will it take to get there? What practices do you need to implement in your life so that you remain in love with God and your life is an expression and an outpouring of that love?**