

Don't forget about our radio program. The broadcast is every Sunday morning from 8:00-8:45 on the HUM. The station can be found at 98.5 in Columbus and 98.3 in Seymour.

The high school class agreed to read through the New Testament in 6 months. Please join them and hold them accountable to daily Bible reading.

Daily Bible Readings

June 29

Luke 23

June 30

Luke 24

July 1

John 1

July 2

John 2

July 3

John 3

July 4

John 4

July 5

John 5

If you are behind in the daily reading, please read 3 chapters a day until you catch up!

The Christ as Counselor

Of the approximately 175 Scriptural titles applied to Christ, "Counselor" is one that stands out. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; . . . and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." What a remarkable setting for this term "Counselor!" How much easier it is for men and even nations to accept Him as Savior and Redeemer than it is to accept and listen to Him as Counselor! It is that phase of Christ's manifold character that we wish to present at this time.

Studying the teachings of Christ we find they are packed with counsel for the saved and the unsaved, for young and old, for the rich and the poor, for the learned and the unlearned. I think it would be very interesting to tabulate the total recorded teachings of Christ to find out just how great a proportion is wise, kindly counsel. "Enter ye in at the straight gate." "Be not wise in your own

conceits." "Be not anxious about the morrow," "Work while it is day." "Watch." "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." "No man can serve two masters." "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." "Judge not that ye be not judged." "All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." We have given a few examples to those who are out of the fold and to those who are within the fold. We might group Christ's words as follows: (1) statements of facts, such as, "No one cometh unto the Father but by me;" (2) commands, such as, "Go ye into all the world," etc.; (3) counsel, such as cited above; (4) promises, such as, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;" (5) warnings, such as, "Beware of false prophets."

We must bear in mind that neither

God nor Christ will ever force any man to obey even a positive command, much less follow counsel. Both are given, however, as I understand it, as guideposts, pointing the only way to safety and salvation! As the Son of the living God, Christ's counsel cannot and dare not be ignored or overlooked. He stated the truth that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one could come to God but by Him. This being true, His counsel cannot be ignored and must be followed by all men who would be saved, because it is the divine and authoritative pointing out of the Way, the Truth and the Life. To a lot of people it seems somewhat easier to recognize the necessity of obeying a positive command than for hearing and heeding Christ's counsel, yet both are given for exactly the same purpose; that is, as guides to the way, and only that way alone can lead to forgiveness, eternal life and heaven.

God's Gift of Confession

Seeking Godly Counsel

Scripture Reading - Prov 4:1-4; 10-13; 20-23

Points to Consider

1. Seek Godly Counsel from God
2. Seek Godly Counsel from Your Parents
3. Seek Godly Counsel from Wise, Godly People who Love You

Seek Godly Counsel from God

1 Sam 23:1-5 *Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors." 2 Therefore David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah." 3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" 4 Then David inquired of the Lord once again. And the Lord answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand." 5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.*

1 Sam 30:7-8 *Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8 So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all." (See also 1 Sam 22:9-15; 2 Sam 2:1; 5:19-23; 21:1)*

The king with a heart like God's did not hesitate to seek _____ counsel.

Josh 9:14-15 *Then the men of Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the Lord. 15 So Joshua made peace with them, and made a covenant with them to let them live; and the rulers of the congregation swore to them.*

Joshua and the elders did not seek God's _____ when making a covenant with the Gibeonites.

Prov 19:20-21 *Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days. 21 There are many plans in a man's heart, Nevertheless the Lord's counsel — that will stand.*

The Lord's counsel stands _____!

Ps 119:9-11 *How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.*

We seek counsel from God by seeking Him with our whole heart, hiding His _____ in our heart, and heeding what He says.

When we substitute intimacy with another person for the _____ we should be having with God, we have made a bad substitution!

Matt 6:8-13 *Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

God has the power to lead us _____ from temptation and to deliver us from the devil when he does tempt us.

Seek Godly Counsel from Your Parents

Prov 1:8-9 *My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.*

You will be rewarded if you _____ your father's instructions and _____ the law of your mother.

Prov 3:12 *For whom the Lord loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.*

Godly parents make good counselors because they love and _____ in their children.

Prov 23:22-25 *Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. 23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, Also wisdom and instruction and understanding. 24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who begets a wise child will delight in him. 25 Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her who bore you rejoice.*

Your parents have a lot at stake in how you turn out.

If you turn out to be righteous your parents will _____, will take delight, and be glad.

Prov 17:21 *He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, And the father of a fool has no joy.*

Prov 17:25 *A foolish son is a grief to his father, And bitterness to her who bore him.*

Prov 19:13 *A foolish son is the ruin of his father, And the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.*

Prov 28:7 *Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, But a companion of gluttons shames his father.*

As sure as a wise son causes his parents to rejoice and be glad, a foolish son brings sorry, grief, _____ and shame to his parents.

1 Kings 2:1-4 *Now the days of David drew near that he should die, and he charged Solomon his son, saying: 2 "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.*

At his death David gave Solomon _____ advice. Following that advice would have greatly benefitted Solomon.

Luke 15:22-24 *But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; 24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.*

No one _____ and accepts a person back like their parents.

Seek Godly Counsel from Wise, Godly People Who Love You

Prov 11:14 *Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.*

Prov 15:22 *Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.*

We should seek counsel from _____ people.

That's different from confessing. A principle of confession is that the fewest people possible should know.

We confess to get _____. We seek counsel to get _____. There are times and situations where we do need help from people to overcome sin (Gal 6:1; James 5:19-20).

If the council we are seeking is intertwined with the sin we are committing then we should seek counsel from people who are _____ and righteous. We clearly established that in lesson 3.

2 Sam 13:12-14 *But she answered him, "No, my brother, do not force me, for no such thing should be done in Israel. Do not do this disgraceful thing! 13 And I, where could I take my shame? And as for you, you would be like one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, please speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you."*

When you _____ the advice of foolish people for wise people you are making a bad substitution!

1 Kings 12:8 *But he rejected the advice which the elders had given him, and consulted the young men who had grown up with him, who stood before him.*

Titus 2:1-5 *But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older*

women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things — 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

When you substitute the counsel of the young for the counsel those who are _____, you make a bad substitution!

1 Cor 6:4-5 *If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge? 5 I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?*

When you substitute advice of a child of Satan's for the advice of a child of God, you make a bad substitution!

1 Cor 13:4-8 *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.*

When you substitute counsel from Christians you don't know for the counsel of people who love you, you make a bad substitution!

God's plan is for you to reinforce His counsel with counsel from godly parents who love you, and counsel from older, godly Christians who love you.

Continued from page 112

The Christian has two duties relative to the counsel of Christ. One is to lay this counsel before every possible misguided wanderer who is not in Christ. The other duty is to remember that Christ is not only Redeemer, but Counselor for every day and every relation in life. When Christians make use of the Christ as Counselor not only in moral decisions, but in business, in the home, in success and defeat, in marriage and in contemplated marriage, in pleasures and sorrows and even in their efforts to serve in Christian work, the sad errors which have pursued Christian lives and afflicted the church will mostly have been done away. Christ as Counselor in the home means the end of most heartbreaks and wrecks. Christ as Counselor, if permitted, would solve all church problems without heat, enmity and disruption.

We close with a word that needs to be strongly emphasized thousands of times in sermons and editorials. Oh, how the nations need Christ as Counselor when men shall sit down to determine their future and their multiplied millions of inhabitants! How can those who hold the lives of all the living and unborn generations in their hands be prevailed upon to seek the tender but sure-guiding hand of Christ, the Son of the living God? Christians, one and all, rich and poor, learned and unlearned, can pray earnestly every day that the chosen representatives of the nations shall choose to be willing and actually will seek the counsel and guidance of Him whose name is "Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

George Welsh Tyler; Truth Magazine XIX: 56, p. 893; December 11, 1975