



THE MESSENGER

MAY 21, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

June 11

Our Next Gospel Meeting

June

Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 on Zoom

Times of Service

Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM

(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month

Singing

February 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of
Christ

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“GIVE YOUR COUNSEL. WHAT SHALL WE DO?”

In the previous article we discussed receiving counsel. We noted the examples of Rehoboam from 1 Kings 12:1-15, Hanun from 2 Samuel 10, and Gamaliel from Acts 5:17-42. The point of the article was to remind us that, in the end, what makes advice good is whether or not it will allow one to walk in a manner worthy of their calling. In other words, does what God has revealed to us in His Word approve the course I've been advised to take? In that regard, neither the age or experience of the one offering the advice is the deciding factor in whether or not God would approve one heeding it.

There is one other passage I'd like for us to consider before bringing these thoughts to a close. In this passage we're going to find an interesting statement made about an individual and then consider the advice that he offered.

As Absalom's conspiracy was strengthening, the news turned even worse for David when he was told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." (2 Samuel 15:31) Many people were joining Absalom. Why was Ahithophel joining him such a problem? David tells us in his response to the troubling news. "O Lord, please turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness." Ahithophel was more than just another counselor. He was *the* counselor. The editorial statement I mentioned earlier is found in 2 Samuel 16:23. This is what we're told: "Now in those days the counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God; so was all the counsel of Ahithophel esteemed, both by David and by Absalom." So, when Ahithophel spoke, people listened.

And yet, Ahithophel was not God. Though his counsel "was as if one consulted the word of God", at least in the mind of

Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, Mary and Riley Mae Weatherholt, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, Glen Perkins, Edra Bernard, Valari Jones-Butler (Valari is Gina Seabolt's former co-worker. Her daughter is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Her 21 year old nephew was killed in a shooting), Charlie Hoy, Marc Nations, Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Charles Bishop, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

To Our Guests

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David and Absalom, his counsel was not equal to the word of God. See the proof in his counsel of 16:21. "Go in to your father's concubines, whom he has left to keep the house, and all Israel will hear that you have made yourself a stench to your father, and the hands of all who are with you will be strengthened." In other words, "Go have sex with all these women to show how thoroughly you've turned against your father. Then all of who have joined you to overthrow the man after God's own heart, the one God specifically chose to lead this nation, will be encouraged to go and kill him." Regardless of how this man might have been esteemed, does that sound like God to you? The counsel was abundantly pragmatic, but godly? No one involved in this conspiracy was honoring or glorifying God. There is no such thing as godly counsel that advises one how to sin more effectively.

"The counsel that Ahithophel gave was as if one consulted the word of God." But it wasn't the word of God, was it? Ahithophel shows us the difference between the man who offers pragmatic advice focused solely upon temporal considerations and the one who gives counsel that honors God from a heart focused foremost upon matters of eternity. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

