

Good Counsel Might Not Be Good For All

I. Introduction:

- A. Where no counsel is, the people fall (**Proverbs 11:14**).
 - 1. It is wise to listen to counsel (**Proverbs 12:15**).
 - 2. Without counsel purposes [plans] are disappointed (**Proverbs 15:22**).
- B. Think about whose counsel will stand (**Psalms 33:11** and **Proverbs 19:20-21**).
 - 1. What about counsel that against the Lord (**Proverbs 21:30**)?
 - 2. There is a distinction [wise] in counsel (**Proverbs 24:6**).
 - 3. Obviously, we know better than to follow counsel from sinners (**Psalms 1:1-2**).

II. Body: You Have To Be Able To Discern (**I Corinthians 2:15**, **Ephesians 5:10**, and **I Thessalonians 5:21**).

- A. Think of Paul's good counsel to those in Corinth (**I Corinthians 7:1-8**).
 - 1. It was good counsel because of their present distress (**I Corinthians 7:26-30**).
 - 2. It was good counsel because marriage, though lawful, is a distraction (**I Corinthians 7:32-35**).
 - 3. The widow would be happier if she remained unmarried (**I Corinthians 7:39-40**).
 - 4. However, that counsel couldn't be followed by all (**I Corinthians 7:9** and **I Timothy 5:11-14**).
- B. You have to know yourself (**II Corinthians 13:5**).
 - 1. Even with the best counsel, you have to test your own work (**Galatians 6:3-5**).
 - 2. You have to know areas of your life wherein you may not follow the best counsel or wherein the best counsel for others might open you to temptations that do not apply to others. Remember, it is up to you not to enter into temptation (**Mark 14:38**; cf. **Luke 8:13**).
 - 3. In the Judgment, you are the one that will answer for your decisions (**John 5:28-29** and **II Corinthians 5:10**).
 - 4. You MUST NOT measure yourself by others (**II Corinthians 10:12**).
- C. Some illustrations to this lesson...
 - 1. Someone recommends a financial decision. It is sound advice - for that person! You do not have the same income, expenses, job security, savings, etc. You have to count the cost for yourself (**Luke 14:28-30**).
 - 2. One might advise you to store up (**Proverbs 30:25**), but there are pressing matters you are aware of that need dealt with that they don't know or understand.

3. Someone might be a person known to lend (**Psalms 112:5**) and you might want to follow their example. However, you do not have the same ability to take losses that he or she does (**Proverbs 11:15**).

4. You might want to get healthy. Someone might advise you to do a certain diet, certain exercises, or take certain vitamins; but they might not be aware of your health conditions. Overall, such benefits are little either way to many (**I Timothy 4:8**). On the other hand, maybe you know you have some issues you need to deal with that others may not be aware of (i.e. **Proverbs 23:20-21**).

5. Maybe someone has some great advice about a certain study of the Scriptures. However, maybe they are unaware of some things that trouble you. Maybe some knowledge is not right at all times for all people (i.e. **Daniel 8:26-27** and **Mark 4:33**). I would not want someone recommended Ecclesiastes (cf. **Ecclesiastes 1:2; 1:14; 2:17; 2:19; 2:23**, etc.) to someone who needs their mind to be on more positive matters (**Philippians 4:6-8**).

III. Conclusion: Have the knowledge to approve [test] so that you will be without offense till the day of Christ (**Philippians 1:9-11**).