

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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Advice

"We give advice by the bucket, but we take it by the grain." – William R. Alger

"You will always find a few Eskimos ready to tell the Congolese how to cope with the heat."
– Stanislaw Lec, *Unkempt Thoughts*

"Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't." - Erica Jong, *How To Save Your Own Life*

"To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it." – Churton Collins

"What a difficult thing it is to ask someone's advice on a matter without coloring his judgment by the way in which we present our problem." – Blaise Pascal, *Pensees*

Webster defines advice as, "recommendation regarding a decision or course of conduct." Google has a more interesting rendering, "Guidance or recommendations concerning prudent future action, typically given by someone regarded as knowledgeable or authoritative."

One of the great problems we see in the realm of advice is that we are often prone to allow ourselves to be guided by another's opinion, even though it defies Scripture. In truth, they may not be knowledgeable on a given subject, nor authoritative, but then we may not really want their advice but their blessing.

Regretfully, not all advice is good. When it is, it can certainly be wonderful as Pharaoh found out with Joseph, as Egypt prepared for the coming famine (Gen. 41:37). But when it is not good, in the case of Ahithophel with Absalom, the consequences can be tragic. Thankfully in that story God intervened and Ahithophel's advice to pursue David with 12,000 men was not followed. Hushai said that Ahithophel's advice was not good. And in his shame in that regard, seeing his advice was not followed, Ahithophel hanged himself (2 Sam. 17:23).

Do you recall the advice that Daniel had given to Nebuchadnezzar? "Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity" (Dan. 4:27). Such words of wisdom that could have spared Nebuchadnezzar the long year of living like an animal.

The hard part about good advice is learning to accept it, even when it may not be what we want to hear. If it is indeed good, thank God for the soul who cared enough to give it to you. Do we have the humility to see the wisdom in what is offered?

In whatever advice we are given, it needs to be taken in light of Scripture. If the advice contradicts what God says, then we know it can't be good. If, however, it harmonizes with God's teachings, then we need to listen.