

Solomon's Good Advice (Proverbs 1-9)
12-15-13

Good Advice is Hard to Find. There is a lot of advice in the world, but most of it is not worth much. What if it were advice from a wise father? According to Scripture, the wisest man to live was Solomon (I Kings 4:29). Proverbs 1-9 is a single text dedicated to Solomon's sons, and it is advice on how to live. Ironically, he did not follow much of his own advice, but we have the Holy Spirit guiding his words to give us this good advice.

Advice on Life #1 - Don't follow the wrong people. In Proverbs 1:8-19 Solomon warns his sons to stay away from evil minded folks. We might be tempted to believe that we can positively influence others, but ultimately, evil companions corrupt good morals.

Advice on Life #2 - Seek wisdom like wealth. In Proverbs 2:1-21 Solomon described wisdom like wealth, and said to seek it. We do a lot to get wealth; we go to schools to learn trades to find professions. Why not seek wisdom that way too? Wisdom will preserve you superior to wealth.

Advice on Life #3 - Have faith and trust in God. In Proverbs 3:1-10 Solomon told his son to trust in the Lord and not in himself. He also said that his son should use blessings to grow faith

Advice on Life #4 - Love the Lord's Discipline. In Proverbs 3:11-20 Solomon said that his son should love the Lord's chastisement (Hebrews 12:5-11). Bad things happen; however, there is good that can be found in those things (James 1:2-4)

Advice on Life #5 - Trust in the knowledge of the Lord. Solomon told his sons in Proverbs 3:21-4:27 not to trust their emotions or instincts. We live in a world that does just that; that is bad advice. Put wisdom to use and keep it

Advice on Life #6 - Do not be lazy. Our world seems to think that the ultimate measure of success is to avoid work. Yet Solomon told his sons in Proverbs 6:1-11 that work is necessary. He condemned physical laziness, and we can add to that spiritual or moral laziness.

Advice on Life #7 - Keep yourself pure. Perhaps the largest chunk of text is devoted to the idea of sexual purity. Particularly in Proverbs 5:1- Proverbs 7:27 Solomon tells his son not to associate with sexual immorality. He says that only fools travel that path, and it is a path that leads to the grave.

Solomon began and ended this conversation with the Fear of the Lord (Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10). In Proverbs 8:13 he defined Godly fear: it is to hate evil. Solomon's ultimate desire is that his sons do not become those whom God hates, as listed in Proverbs 6:16. This good advice is timeless as we consider it today