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For Your Consideration

*“Let us consider
how to stimulate
one another to love
and good deeds.”*
Hebrews 10:24

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Ron Adams
“Be thoughtful and kind.”

BIBLE RESOURCES

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(Quotations from NASB)

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WISDOM

The intellectual power to decide wisely.

The words of wise men are like goads, and masters of these collections are like well-driven nails; they are given by one Shepherd.

Ecclesiastes 12:11

It takes time and effort for things to grow, and it takes time and effort to accumulate wisdom. At my age (four score and five) I have had many opportunities to hopefully gain some wisdom. While experience is a great teacher, one needs to be a good learner and be guided by it.

A Lasting Impression

I don't remember the title of this story, but one part of it has stuck in my mind all these years. It was about an old mountain man making his final trip on a well-worn trail in the woods. After crossing a foot bridge in need of repairs, he said to his companion, "I need to fix that bridge." His companion asked, "Why? You'll never cross it again." He replied, "True, but there are others who are coming behind."

Sharing What I Learned With Others Coming Behind

His name was Pete. He had invited me many times to attend church with him, but I always declined. That is, until a few years later I accepted his invitation. And as a result, I also accepted the invitation to put my faith in Jesus and become one of His disciples.

Lesson: Never give up asking others to attend church services, attend a home Bible study, or to study with you. It may take a number of times before it is accepted. If not, you have let your light shine.

His name was Al. He was an elderly member who was crippled by working as a plumber for many years. One day while visiting him, he said to me, "I am housebound and can't do much anymore, but I have a phone and I can call others who are suffering and brighten their day."

Lesson: "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have," is great advice. Don't wish for more talent, more strength, or more time, but use what you do have. By so doing the one helped and the one helping are both blessed.

His name was Frank. He was what one would call "weird." He had a menial labor-intensive job at the place where I worked. Even though he did his job very well, he became the object of many pranks. Most of the time he took it in stride, but one day after enduring a number of humiliating antics, he confided in me, "I wish they wouldn't do such things. You know, I have feelings, too." Those words are etched in my memory forever. (It happened in the 1960s.)

Lesson: Don't limit the sources for gaining wisdom. Rich or poor, well educated or not, CEO or janitor, you never know who may impart some wisdom that will help you.

His name was Jesus. In the beginning He was the Word. He was with God. He was God. He became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Lesson: His grace and truth are the means of our salvation from sin, our guide for this life, and our hope for the future. Appreciate and love Him.

Succinctly Put

Wisdom comes with age. But not necessarily.

Otherwise there would be no "old fools."

**BEEN THERE —
DONE THAT**
Learning from the Successes
and Mistakes of Others

Not a Wise Choice

Lot lifted up his eyes and saw all the valley of the Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere ... So Lot chose for himself all the valley of the Jordan, and Lot journeyed eastward.

Genesis 13:7-11

The land Lot chose was fertile and a good place to take his herds. However, it was populated by men who were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord. Later, his choice caused him much grief and the loss of his wife.

NOW HEAR THIS

Be careful in choosing a mate by outward appearance only. Character matters most.

As a ring of gold in a swine's snout so is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

Proverbs 11:22

Be careful in choosing friends. Avoid those whose motives and actions are worldly, be they fellow-workers, neighbors, or relatives.

You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4

Be careful of judging others only by their appearance. A person's piety may be only skin deep.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."

Matthew 23:27-28



**Regret only changes your thinking.
It cannot change what has been done.**



Pearls of Wisdom from Proverbs

1:7

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge;
Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Not until one gains great respect for God and stands in awe of His great power, might, love, and care, does one fully grasp the answer to the question, "O LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You think of him?"



12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.

It's not as I see it. It's as God sees it. My view is subjective and near-sighted. It's limited by what I have seen and heard.



12:23

A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims folly.

Knowing when not to tell something is most important. Restraining one's words when tempted to spout is a wise thing to do.



13:20

He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm.

"I am able to associate with worldly friends and not be influenced" are the words of a fool.



15:2

*The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable,
But the mouth of fools spouts folly.*

The way a message is conveyed is as important as the message. (Note: The way a husband responds to his spouse with "Yes, dear" speaks volumes.)



16:16

How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

Of all the goals you set for your life, be sure to have wisdom as the most important one. It will help guide you as you travel life's road.

Food for Thought

It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man than for one to listen to the song of fools.

Ecclesiastes 7:5