

No Fear

By Jason Moore

“My son, let them not depart from your eyes— Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught” (Prov. 3:21-26).

No Fear. I see that logo everywhere. Especially on the automobiles and t-shirts and ball caps of young people. I detest it. It seems arrogant to me. It depicts a life of frivolity, an attitude of carelessness, a foolish daredevil posture toward life and toward authority.

The wise man describes the only life that is without fear. It is a life of wisdom and discretion. Wisdom consists of information about what is right and just to do and about what is to be avoided. Discretion equips a man with the ability to discern that what is permissible is not always practical, that what is lawful is not always expedient. This pair of virtues provides a twin-edged sword for cutting to the heart of difficult decisions.

Observe the foes that wisdom and discretion will conquer.

- Fear of falling – “your foot will not stumble.”
- Fear of conscience – “your sleep will be sweet.”
- Fear of financial disaster – “do not be afraid of sudden terror.”
- Fear of enemies – “do not be afraid of trouble from the wicked.”

Trouble is a guarantee for life under the sun. The wise man admits this in our reading. He says, “Do not be afraid of trouble...when it comes.” Trouble, with a capital T, will come your way. But wisdom and discretion will prevent you from being the source of it, will help you to provide a solution to it, and give you a way to navigate through it with no reason to fear it for “the Lord will be your confidence.”

Selling Shoes

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...” (1Peter 3:15) “Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled’ (Luke 14:23). “...He who wins souls is wise” (Prov. 11:30).

The attitude of some brethren toward personal work brings to mind the story of two salesmen who in the 1800's were sent from this country on separate missions to Africa to view the possibilities of selling shoes. One salesman wrote back to the company and said, “The prospects for selling shoes in this country are absolutely no good because everyone goes barefooted.” The other salesman wrote back and said, “The prospects for selling shoes here is fantastic because everyone needs shoes.”

How is your attitude toward personal work?

The Opinion of the Society

“But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts” (Zech. 7:11-12).

Benjamin Franklin, who was ridiculed at one time in Paris for his defense of the Bible, was determined to find out how much of it his scoffers had read. He informed them that he had come across a story of pastoral life in ancient times that seemed to him to be very beautiful but he would like the opinion of the society. A night was arranged for Franklin to read to the assembly of so-called scholars. Franklin read the Book of Ruth, and when he had finished, the scholars were in ecstasy and begged Franklin to print it. "It is already in print," said Franklin. "It is a part of the Bible you ridicule." (From All the Women of the Bible)

An Umbrella for the Queen

"And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? Says the LORD of hosts" (Mal. 1:8).

One day while walking with some children, Queen Mary was caught in a sudden shower. Quickly taking shelter on the porch of a home, she knocked at the door and asked to borrow an umbrella. "I'll send it back tomorrow," she said. The queen had deliberately disguised her appearance by putting on a hat that partly covered her face and by wearing some very plain clothes. The householder, reluctant to give a stranger her best umbrella, offered her a castoff she found in the attic. One rib was broken and there were several holes in it. Apologizing, she turned it over to the monarch, whom she did not recognize. The next day she had another visitor -- a man with gold braid on his uniform and an envelope in his hand. "The queen sent me with this letter," he said, "and also asked me to thank you personally for the loan of your umbrella." Stunned, the woman burst into tears. "Oh, what an opportunity I missed that I did not give her my very best," she cried.

Many, I fear, will have to make the same confession when they face the Lord at the end of life's road. (From Bible Illustrator)

A Moments Wisdom

--The best proof of God's existence is what follows when we deny it.

--Time is precious, but truth is more precious than time.

--God is on the lookout for persons with hearts perfect toward Him. He is not a talent scout looking for somebody strong enough or good enough. He is looking for someone with a heart set on pleasing Him and an eye single to His glory. He will do the rest.

--The Psalms are our Bread of Heaven in the wilderness of our Exodus.

--No one will make a good leader who wants to do it all himself or who wants all the credit for doing it.

--God never puts one in a space too small to grow in.

--You can always tell when you are on the right road in life; it is narrow and uphill.

--The person who insists on seeing with perfect clarity before deciding, never decides.

--Some states have discovered true perpetual motion. They give some folks welfare so that they can invest the welfare check in the state lottery so that the money that comes in from the lottery can be given out as welfare.

--If you like yourself more after spending time with someone, he or she is a true friend. If you like yourself less, he or she is not a true friend.

--If a thing goes without saying, let it.

--When all men speak, no man hears.

--Most people know how to say nothing; very few know when to say nothing.

--Definition of a good speech: a great beginning, a strong ending, and not too much distance in between them.