

*If we endure, we will also
reign with Him; If we deny
Him, He also will deny us*
2Timothy 2:12

Store In My Heart Ephesians 4:11-14

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Instructors were given by God to help us grow to be like Christ and to handle whatever Satan may throw at us. They need to be using that talent in God's service. All should listen and learn so they can apply God's teaching in their own lives. This is how we grow as individuals and as a group. God's gifts will help us stand firm in the midst of Satan's turmoil.



Listening To Advisers

Dan Henderson

"Listen to your elders." "Get advice from someone who has experience." "I have been there and can tell you how it is."

The above statements are often offered to those who are seeking advice about something they are dealing with in their life. I want to begin by stating that these statements are good general ideas for such a situation. Those who have gone before in a situation can help us, but I want to consider a somewhat different idea in this article. We need to make sure we are not ignoring good advice just because it is from a seemingly unqualified source. Wise advice can sometimes come from strange places.

Consider for a moment Paul's voyage as a prisoner to Rome in **Acts 27**. They found a ship going the right way but had a great deal of difficulty getting anywhere. (**Acts 27:7-8**) Verses **9-10** tells us that it was a dangerous time of year to be on the Mediterranean Sea and Paul advised the centurion that to travel further at this time would lead to much loss and injury. Verse **11** tells us the centurion gave more attention to those with the ship than to Paul. Thus, they left the safety of the port and attempted to reach a better place in which to winter. Continued reading reveals that it was not long until the centurion probably began to wish he had listened to Paul. Their voyage with that ship concluded with shipwreck and being stranded on a small island.

I suspect that most of us in the place of the centurion would probably follow the same path as him. Most would consider the advice of a ship's pilot more valuable regarding sailing than some religious prisoner. But one thing it seems the centurion did not consider when he was making his decision, motive behind the advice. Those associated with the ship wanted a

better port in which to winter. It seems they were looking for a more comfortable place to stay during the rough weather of this season. Of course, I am sure this was on the mind of the centurion as well. If he was going to have to wait out the seasonal storms why not do so in a port well suited for such waiting, both for men and ship.

Paul on the other hand was motivated by concern for the men involved. Paul's plea was to avoid injury and harm. Paul, whose life was devoted to helping men avoid the destruction of sin, demonstrates his concern for the well-being of all those involved. Of course, looking from the outside, so to speak, we can also see that Paul's advice is based on knowledge from God. Still, it is worth note that Paul wanted all these men to avoid the loss and injury that was sure to come.

Are we really that much different than this centurion? It is easy for us to follow advice that points us in the direction we desire to travel. It would do us good to not only know the experience of our advisers, but to also consider the motivation behind their advice if we can. We need to listen to those who have experience, but we also need to consider sound council from others. Think carefully about all your decisions. Remember the easy path is often filled with sorrow and loss. As for the centurion, I'm sure he listened more closely the next time Paul spoke.

(It is easy to see how this relates to our daily tasks. As Christians though, we should take the same 'advice' for spiritual knowledge and guidance. Too often we turn to the "well-known" preacher for help when we are surrounded by men and women with the same or greater understanding of the issue where we struggle. Many times, the 'regular' Christian has put more study into a topic than the preacher. This is not a lacking in the preacher/teacher, as they must spend time in study on many different topics to help others, where another may have given very close attention to one topic due to a need in their life or those around them. We must be careful to follow advice that meets God's standard, but remember, good advice can be found among all of God's children. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

The **Laubachs** are both off their feet. David's infection is improving. Paula is dealing with a bone fracture.

Stanley Hurst is improving with physical therapy.

Jim Soliday will start new meds for his heart rhythm in Nov.

Sue Soliday is still dealing with her lymphedema.

Leta Rivera is on oxygen for her breathing and is still dizzy.

Shannon Soliday is working this weekend.

The **LaVallas** are in Louisiana today. The **Rigsbys** are returning from Lubbock today. The **Hendersons** will be in Texas Thursday.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 30** Wednesday - **Revelation 2**