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Fruit and Consequences

“So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes.”

Proverbs 1:31

The fruit stands are open and doing a brisk business here in the Okanagan. Locals and tourists indulge in fresh fruit. While eating too much of anything can lead to health issues, experts assure us it is very difficult to eat too much fruit. So enjoy!



But we know the fruit King Solomon notes in Proverbs 1:31 is not actual fruit but the product, result of people following their own way, indulging in their own schemes.

The chapter opens with wisdom calling out to people to seek and follow it. It then goes on with a warning to sinners about sin, “they ambush their own souls” (18). That is part of the consequence or fruit of their own way. Wisdom calls out to the naive, foolish and scoffers who refuse her instruction and correction. Because they do not listen and follow,

“they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own schemes.”

There are some important lessons for us here. Consider just three.

- Make sure you are actually seeking God’s wisdom. As Solomon instructs,
“Make your ear attentive to wisdom; incline your heart to understanding ... For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (2:2, 6)

Remember James 1:5,

“if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

This is a spiritual discipline which involves evaluating and guarding our motives, thoughts, desires, words and actions. A discipline which provides great benefits. As Solomon writes later, wisdom “is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are those who hold on to her” (3:18).

- Be aware and concerned but not discouraged because those who do not seek God and His wisdom are prospering, seem to be getting away with it. We ask “Why?” just as Job did,
 “Why do the wicked still live, grow old, and also become very powerful?” (21:7)

King David answers this in Psalm 37's forty verses. Read the Psalm. For now, take note of his succinct opening lines,

“Do not get upset because of evildoers, do not be envious of wrongdoers. For they will wither quickly like the grass, and decay like the green plants. Trust in the LORD and do good; live in the land and cultivate faithfulness.” (1-3)

God will settle all accounts. Trust Him.

- Maintain God's perspective, the eternal perspective. This includes remembering that God is patient with a purpose. He tells us that He
 “is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

God loves the world so much that He sent His Son to become one of us and die to pay the penalty of our sin (John 3:16). As God told Ezekiel,

“I take no pleasure at all in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then should you die, house of Israel?” (33:11)

Yes, many reject Him and face His judgment. As Jesus told us,

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.” (Matthew 7:13)

If we truly have God's heart for those who do not know Him, we will have concern, compassion, urgency to follow His command through Jude,

“save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.” (1:23)

Seek, cultivate, live by and enjoy the fruit of God's wisdom.

Pastor Lyle