



WEEKLY DEVOTIONALS FROM PASTOR LYLE WAHL

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Good Advice

From time to time, even often, we are both given and asked for advice.

Then at times we are given free advice without being asked, and offer it without asking. You probably have heard some of the humorous comments about free, unsolicited advice—

- Free advice is worth what you pay for it. Nothing.
- Unsolicited advice is like someone singing out of tune. Nobody wants to hear it.
- Unsolicited advice is the junk mail of life.



And, yes, there are times when unsolicited advice can be helpful. We see an example of this in Exodus chapter 16. You may recall the account. Moses' father-in-law Jethro visited. He observed what Moses was doing as the leader of the two million or so Israelites, which basically was trying to do it all. That was an impossible task. Jethro then offered Moses some advice.

“The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone. Now listen to me: I will give you counsel, and God be with you. You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, then admonish them about the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do. Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain; and you shall place these over them as leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. Let them judge the people at all times; and let it be that they will bring to you every major matter, but they will judge every minor matter themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will carry the burden with you. If you do this thing and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people also will go to their places in peace” (17-23).

Jethro's unsolicited advice was good and practical. It benefited Moses and all the people he was leading.

The Bible tells us where to get the best advice, and it's free! Proverbs chapter 19 verse 21 tells us,

“Many plans are in a person’s heart, but the advice of the LORD will stand.”

The word *advice* here means counsel or advice, and at times can mean purpose. It is the same word In Exodus chapter 18 when Jethro told Moses, “I will give you counsel.”

We often see a good number of acceptable or even good courses of action. Some of them quickly melt away, while others continue to look good, for at least a while. God’s advice is perfect. It will always, forever remain, endure, stand as good.

Psalm 33 verses 10 and 11 reinforce and elaborate on this,

“The LORD nullifies the plan of nations; He frustrates the plans of peoples. The plan of the LORD stands forever, the plans of His heart from generation to generation.”

Yes, the *counsel*, the *advice* of God stands forever.

God is all-knowing, all-wise. His counsel, His advice is always good, is the best, because it is always true. It will stand every test, forever. He does not need anyone to give him counsel or conference with Him. He tells us through Isaiah,

“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding?” (40:13-14).

We recall that Proverbs chapter 11 tells us “Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in an abundance of counselors there is victory” (14). That is true *when* and *if* that counsel lines up with God.

A good question at this point is, “How do we receive God’s advice or counsel?”

- God uses His Word as we read, accept and follow it.
- He gives us His wisdom as we ask Him in faith. This free guidance is for each, for every believer.
- And, yes, God gives His counsel through other believers, whose counsel we can test by God’s Word and the wisdom He gives us.

The question is, “Have I been seeking, accepting and acting on God’s counsel ... in each day, in every situation?” Review the last week in light of that question, in all things, *big* and *small*.

Thank God for His free gift of counsel, of advice, and determine to continually seek and accept it.

Pastor Lyle