



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 12, 2018

Heart to Heart...

One of the greatest needs today in the lives of people is prudence. There are too many naive which makes one turn their eyes and ears from what is really happening. The naive just go along, living off their immediate impulses while walking into situations that are destructive. Prudence would keep that from happening.

Prudence literally means “acuteness of mind.” It is a mind that is wise using wisdom to discern the modes of action with a view to the end results. In other words, a person with prudence realizes where things are headed before it arrives while knowing the outcome! For instance, one time while we were camping we were cutting wood for a fire. There was a rather thick branch. The problem ... it was green. A fellow picks it up and says, “The perfect size! I’ll break it easily over my leg!” He was told the branch was green and it wouldn’t break. He thought better and knew he could do it! He was naive and with that proceeded. His ignorance led to a major cut on his thigh and a deep bruise. Being naive and lacking prudence does not produce good thinking in approaching life.

How do we gain prudence? By gaining wisdom. **“O naive ones, understand prudence; and, O fools, understand wisdom.”** (Proverbs 8:5) The naive and foolish lack both prudence and wisdom. Those who lack prudence and wisdom are not aware of what is going on around them in situations so they never make proper judgements. They just keep going with the same mind-set, living off their impulses and the results is often getting caught in a situation they never saw coming.

“The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on, and are punished for it.” (Proverbs 22:3) The lack of not seeing where things are headed can have serious consequences in our lives. The lack of prudence leads many into situations that do harm. Along with prudence comes discretion. Maybe you have been told, “I’ll leave that to your discretion.” What do they mean? You will have to make a responsible and right decision on our own. If you lack prudence, it’s very difficult to do. We need God’s wisdom to help us make right, responsible decisions understanding where things will lead.

The church as a whole needs prudence. Elders need prudence to see where things are headed to make the proper choices/decisions now that will affect things down the road. Deacons need prudence to know how to go about tasks assigned learning to be faithful in the work for the Lord. Preachers need prudence to understand what is needed both in preaching/teaching to keep things from going off track down the road. The body of Christ, each member, needs prudence to keep yourself from getting into situations that are costly down the road or end up in worse conditions in life.

“A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel.” (Proverbs 1:5) Are you wise and understanding? Do you find yourself going from one set-back to another? Have you thought and considered you need prudence? Think about it!!!

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