

Today's Seeds, Tomorrow's Harvest

By: Chris M. Coursey

When I was younger I believed I was invincible. At times the choices I made, the activities I engaged in and the stance I took on life was far from wise. Some people described my behavior as careless while at the time I called it carefree. Looking back on my younger years I now call it unwise and immature. Though I had voices of reason in my family, school and church, I'm sad to say there were times I had to learn lessons the hard way. I do not recommend this style of learning.

Take for example the time in my younger years I rarely wore a seat belt. In spite of wise counsel from experienced folks who knew better I seldom responded to their guidance. One day while driving my truck to a Super Bowl party I followed a car containing two of my friends. Our vehicles pulled up to an intersection. Immediately my friend's car drove away while I paused and waited for an opening to cross the busy junction. After a few minutes traffic cleared so I released the clutch, pressed the accelerator then advanced. The next thing I remember, the paramedics were removing me from my crushed truck onto a stretcher. They asked me several questions, "What day of the week is it? Who is the president of the United States?" My mind was fuzzy and I was confused. After a while I began to remember that I was on my way to a Super Bowl party. Needless to say, I failed to make an appearance at the party and I missed the football game. Thanks be to God I did survive the tragic automobile accident and left the experience sore but alive. No one was seriously injured in the accident though two cars were completely totaled. The vehicle that struck me was driving 60 mph and did not have a chance to press their brakes, so the collision drove my truck quite a distance up the road into a telephone pole. My truck gained a new home at the junk yard and I acquired a new appreciation for seatbelts and God.

Looking back on this experience reminds me of the necessity we all have to make wise decisions and heed sensible counsel. Our choices, decisions and lifestyle not only impact ourselves but the people around us. There was a time in history when God asked His prophet (Jeremiah) to warn Judah and Jerusalem that they have an opportunity to make wise choices and live. To summarize, God said they should turn from their evil ways and do what is right. For the people to disregard this wisdom would lead to a result that is neither satisfying nor fruitful. Their response to God's warning is recorded in the 18th chapter of Jeremiah, where they reply, "Don't waste your breath. We will continue to live as we want to, following our own evil desires." Their response was not what God or the prophet had hoped. Part of God's response to this 'unwise' choice is recorded in verse 15 where He says, "...they have stumbled off the ancient highways of good, and they walk the muddy paths of sin." This provides us with a good illustration of what happens when we refuse to listen to wisdom and guidance – we end up in "muddy paths of sin". Let's take this week as an opportunity to use wisdom that brings life and blessing for ourselves and those around us. We may be surprised to discover the end result!

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