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ministry of the word.

Acts 6: 4 ASV

Seek the Right Counsel A Message for Youth

Week of Sunday 26 March, 2017 A.D.
(Anno Domini – In the year of our Lord)

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- **Text:** Amos 3: 1-2 & 7-8 ASV

1 Hear this word Jehovah spoke, O children of Israel, which I brought out of the land of Egypt, 2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth.

7 Surely the Lord Jehovah will do nothing, except he reveal his secret unto his servants.

8 The Lord Jehovah hath spoken.

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- Seek counsel of the right kind. What defines the right kind of counsel? They must be divinely called. They must believe every single word of the Bible is God breathed (II Timothy 3: 16). They must believe in Salvation by Grace and the Resurrection. They must be a student of the Bible, studying diligently. They must think for themselves, relying on the Holy Spirit. They must be kind and compassionate.

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- Never go to mean spirited counsel. They may be fundamentally sound in all other things, but they are not the right kind of counsel. Rather than harmonizing God's Word, they are apt to cause confusion and discord. God gives special wisdom to His counsel He gives to no one else.
- The best counsel in the world will not help one who will not accept and apply instruction. That means one not only listens and remembers, but uses it.

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- God has a great deal to say about receiving instruction, emphasizing that a willingness to receive and apply instruction is a necessity.
- Proverbs is rich in advising youth to receive instruction about daily living. ³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; ⁴ To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. ⁵ A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto

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wise counsels: ⁶ To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings. Proverbs 1: 3-6

- Who are these godly counsel? Among them are dedicated Christian parents. ⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Proverbs 1: 8

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- Godly instruction will give subtilty... Subtilty means acuteness of intellect; refinement of discrimination. A subtle person is one who can discern the truth, even when it is hidden. He or she can look beyond the emotions of the moment and the fashions of the day and see the long term truth. It is difficult to deceive a subtle person.
- Godly instruction will give discretion... Discretion means being careful about what one does or says. That means making the right decisions.

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- What are the right decisions? Decisions God would make if He were in your place. How can you know what God would do? By learning what God knows, as far as possible. ⁶ For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2: 6
- Christians know everything God gives us of His wisdom, knowledge and understanding is written in the Bible. It is impossible to be wise without learning the Bible. He has given us parents and counsel to help understand it.

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- We are told to listen. We are told to apply ourselves to understand. We are told to seek learning as most men seek material wealth. ² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; ³ Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; ⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; ⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2: 2-5

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- When one seeks, receives and applies Biblical instruction, the wisdom they gain will keep them from making wrong destructive decisions, and deliver them from snares and traps that will cause them misery. It will preserve them and keep them. ¹⁰ When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; ¹¹ Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee. Proverbs 2: 10-11

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- Many think they are wiser than godly parents and counsel. ¹ My son, receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee. Proverbs 2: 1
They think their parents and counsel are out of touch with the times. They listen to their peers rejecting their parents and counsels standards. It always goes back to each of us to receive the instruction and take it to heart. ⁷ Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. Proverbs 3: 7

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- God's standards are never out of date. Godly parents and counsel are never behind the times. One does not get too old to listen to his parents and counsel. ¹ My son, forget not my law; let thine heart keep my commandments: ² For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Proverbs 3: 1-2

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- God never changes. Right remains right. True is ever true. When an individual refuses to walk in the old time ways of God, as did Israel of old, they will pay a terrible price. ¹⁶ Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

Jeremiah 6: 16

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- You must seek, receive and apply instruction given by godly parents and counsel. They are not out of touch. They were once young and they know how you feel. ⁵ A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

Proverbs 1: 5

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- The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation. Its doctrines are holy. Its precepts are binding. Its histories are true. Read it to be wise. Believe it to be safe. Practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct, comfort, and cheer you.
- Memory Verse: **7 Surely the Lord Jehovah will do nothing, except he reveal his secret unto his servants.** *Amos 3: 7 ASV*