

Learning To Avoid Unnecessary Suffering In Life (Conclusion)

by Ronnie Scherffius

MINDING YOUR OWN BUSINESS

With great wisdom, Solomon advised, He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears (Proverbs 26:17).

Few decisions have so severe consequences as when one involves himself in matters that do not pertain to him. What motivates one to insert himself into the business of someone else? Some genuinely wish to help a friend through a difficult situation. Others, supposing they know the correct approach to every situation, feel obligated to “counsel” any who may be at strife with someone. Then there is the tale-bearer; the “friend” who simply must know the details, not to offer counsel, but to spread rumor and gossip.

To avoid unnecessary suffering in life, the best way to approach the strife and problems in the lives of others is to mind your own business. Solomon compared one who interferes in another's conflicts to one who “taketh a dog by the ears.” The picture is of one laying hold on a strange dog. What troubles and sufferings have come to one who unwittingly approaches a strange dog, even with the intent to do the animal good and not harm.

Interfering in matters that belong to others will hardly end in good. Moses had to flee from Egypt after involving himself in the strife of two fellow Hebrews (Exodus 2:13, 14). King Josiah was mortally wounded when he meddled in strife not belonging to him (2 Chronicles 35:20-24). Jesus demonstrated the wisdom of not interfering in the business of others, even though invited: “And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?” (Luke 12:13, 14).

One who unnecessarily involves himself in conflicts that do not concern him will likely be forced to choose sides. Such choices result in damaging relationships and injuring reputations. One way to avoid unnecessary suffering in life is to mind your own business.

GIVE HEED AND CONSIDER SITUATIONS BEFORE GETTING INVOLVED

Have you ever “put the cart before the horse?” Maybe you have the habit of “biting off more than you can chew.” Perhaps you have started a project only to discover that you are “in way over your head.” Each of these common idioms speaks to the wisdom of the Proverbs and the timeless counsel to consider a matter before getting involved.

To instruct against trouble, embarrassment, or even ruin, Solomon sagaciously warned, “The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going” (Proverbs 14:15). Unnecessary suffering awaits the person who fails to listen and critically evaluate what he hears and sees (Constable).

Some have an impulsive nature. The apostle Peter is an example of this personality (cf. Luke 18:28; John 18:10; 13:8-9). On one occasion, a disciple with an impulsive heart declared to Jesus, “Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest” (Luke 9:57). The Lord's reply highlighted the inspired wisdom to look well to his goings: “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Luke 9:58). In other words, consider all that is involved before committing to a cause. Another illustration of this prudent proverb in the life of Christ is found in the Lord's caution to

count the extreme cost of being His disciple (Luke 14:25-33).

Unfortunately, many fail thoroughly to weigh matters that have long-lasting effects on their lives. Such failures inevitably bring about unnecessary suffering. Young couples commonly find themselves in difficulties after purchasing a house they cannot afford. Financial ruin is the consequence of unadvised investments. From marriage to future investments, from choosing a college to career choices, to avoid unnecessary suffering one should look well to his going.

CONCLUSION

Man certainly will die; he will one day go “to his long home” (Ecclesiastes 12:5). Likewise, all who live in this world will endure the common thread of trials and sufferings (1 Corinthians 10:13). Some will suffer for doing good. Paul affirmed, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). Peter added to this thought noting,

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you:

on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf (1 Peter 4:14-16; cf. 3:14, 17).

Still, we may avoid unnecessary suffering. In truth, David could have avoided much suffering if he had chosen not to pursue Bathsheba. The sword that so mightily wielded itself in the house of David would have never been unsheathed if he had not conspired in the death of an innocent and faithful servant. Similarly, the lot of Abraham's nephew would have been much different if he would have considered consequence rather than abundance.

God has promised an abundant life in heaven for all who faithfully follow Him. But God also desires that we enjoy an abundant life on this earth. He provides physical blessings for all to enjoy (Matthew 5:43-45) and the inspired wisdom of the Proverbs to help us learn how to avoid unnecessary suffering in this life. Let us praise Him for His blessings and give heed to His wisdom.

Are You Worried Yet?

By: Jay Launius

It would seem that everywhere we turn, we’re being told that we should be worried about something. If you watch the news, then they’re telling us that we should be worried about the economy, politics, homelessness, world hunger, endangered animal species, the environment, our health and the weather. If you watch the commercials in between the newscast, then we’re to be concerned about having the right clothes, shoes, houses or cars. They tell us that we should worry about our savings and investments or our children might not get to go to college. We’re told we need insurance for our house, car, teeth, eyes, ears, and anything else that might fail us. We can now purchase insurance in case our car’s transmission breaks or the refrigerator goes on the blink. They say we need to have a certain lawyer’s number handy just in case we’re injured in an accident. Are you worried yet?

The truth is that we spend a lot of our time worrying about things that never come to pass and as

Christians, we are not to be a worrying people. We have put our trust, not in the securities of physical life, but in God. Jesus said, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’” He then said, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow...” (Matthew 6:31-34). Now does that mean that we should be “happy-go-lucky” through life without a concern in the world? Certainly, we are to be concerned about our relationship with God, raising our families, being good stewards over our blessings, and helping our fellow man. But not to the point that it cripples us into a state of ineffectiveness. The bible tells us not to worry, but in everything give thanks to God and His peace, which surpasses all understanding will guard our hearts through Jesus Christ. (Philippians 4:6-7). We can have confidence and ease our worries because, as Peter wrote, we can cast all our cares upon God because He cares for us. (1 Peter 5:6)

Upcoming Events

Today! —Monthly Potluck luncheon after the morning service. There will also be a 1pm service in lieu of the 5pm.

Today! - There will be a brief Men’s Meeting to-day following the youth award event.

Sept. 12—Monthly Youth Devo after evening wor-ship at the Cammock home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Sept. 19—Teen/Parent meeting after evening ser-vice.

Sept. 24—Family Game night at 6:30p.m.

Save the Date: Oct. 17-20 Midtown will be host-ing our Fall Gospel meeting with Mike Bonner. Please make plans to attend and bring a friend.

Area Events

Oct. 9, 2021-Mathis church of Christ Ladies’ Day. Speakers include Emily Cammock and Athena Scherffius. More information is on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests

Phoebe O’Donnell - she is a 14 year old girl in the church in New Zealand and has been diagnosed with lymphoma cancer.

Vergie Shelton’s granddaughter Tonya Casillas who is very sick, Vergie’s great granddaughter who was exposed to Covid. Vergie’s nieces Jamie Campa who is on dialysis and Joann Licht who is very sick.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Scott DeDear, Ken and Sandra Marie, Mike McVey, Ann Pantel, Veroni-ca Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson, Charlie Mabe, Sandy Malone.

Service Roster

Week of September 5, 2021

Sunday Morning

Announcements..... Doug Jobses
Scripture Reading.....Fred Scherffius
Song Leader Doug Jobses

Opening Prayer.....Mike Atkinson
Closing Prayer..... Lloyd Flores

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread.....James Cammock
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering.....Bryant Siegel
Assist..... Doug Jobses
Assist..... Isaac Jobses
Assist.....Fred Scherffius

Sunday Evening

Announcements..... Doug Jobses
Song Leader Isaac Jobses

Opening Prayer.....Jesse Moser
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido & Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Ronnie Scherffius
Song Leader Kirk FitzSimmons
Devotional Bryant Siegel

Other

Usher.....Allen Clifton
Prepare Communion Escojido Family

Congregational News

Birthdays

Herb Ramsey Sept. 9
Cooper Siegel Sept. 11

Anniversaries

Curtis & Ann Pantel..... Sept. 9

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ronnie Scherffius
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Ronnie Scherffius

Weekly Reading

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 29, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....66
A.M. Worship.....93
P.M. Worship.....63
Wednesday Bible Class.....58

Offering week of August 29, 2021.....\$ 2,801

Supported Works

Mani Pagidipalli *India*
John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
Anthony Scherffius *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.