

C.S.I.

(Common Sense Instructions)

From Ecclesiastes 10

Part 2

Verses 5,6 and 7 Deal With Honesty

“There is an evil I have seen under the sun, As an error proceeding from the ruler: Folly (Immaturity) is set in great dignity(or positions of great authority), While the rich(people of proven worth) sit in a lowly place. I have seen servants on horses, While princes(experienced veterans) walk around on the ground like servants(are put out to pasture).

Observations

- Beware of placing incompetent people in competent positions
- Beware of cronyism and nepotism even in the church
- Nothing wrong with hiring friends or family members *if qualified*
- Avoid the appearance of employing people *only* because they are family (*they must pass the test too!, 1Timothy 3:10*)

Verses 8-11 Deal With Honesty

*8) “He who digs a pit(for others) will fall into it,
And whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by
a serpent.”*

- **Watch out; the trap you set for others may catch you (Haman was hanged by his own noose in the book of Esther intended for Mordecai whom he didn't like)**
- **Watch out; a friend who commits a crime with you may double-cross you**

Verses 8-11 Deal With Honesty

Verse 9) *“He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, And he who splits wood may be endangered by it*

Be safe; some jobs by their very nature are just more dangerous than others. That needs to be accepted at the very outset before agreeing to do it (your skills--or the lack thereof--must be considered, removing and replacing large boulders, building structures, thoracic and neurosurgery, ophthalmic surgery)

Observations

- This also is symbolic in that there are times when we must tear down and rebuild some things in our lives all over (rebuilding lives torn by drug abuse and infidelity, and marital mistrust can be hurtful and painful)
- When mining stones you are trying to preserve, they can hit you in the head so be careful (some people you are actually trying to help can turn around and hurt you)

Verse 10) ***“If the ax is dull, and does not sharpen the edge,
Then he must use more strength. But wisdom brings
success.”***

- Well said and well placed words can make all the difference in the world between accelerating a contentious situation versus resolving heated emotions or reaching an agreement on a difficult issue

***“A soft answer turns away wrath. But a harsh word stirs
up anger.” Proverbs 15:1***

***“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with
salt, that ye may know how you ought to answer each
one.” Colossians 4:6***

- Verse 11) ***“A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; The babbler is no different,”***
- Wisdom teaches us to soothe the person with which we contentiously have to deal rather than try to “out-hiss him”
- A “babbler” (loose-tongued friend) is as dangerous as an un-charmed snake. Both will bite you
- A ruler that is free-speaking (has no P.E.R.M.) is as dangerous as an un-charmed snake
- There is prudence in managing associates who are babblers (you can't tell everything to everybody).
You'll get bitten

The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38