

Proverbs 1:8–19

How to Avoid Self-Destruction

Monday, August 19, 2024 ▫ Read Proverbs 1:8–19

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does v8 address? Whose instruction does it say for him to hear? Whose law not to forsake? What does v9 promise that these will be to them? To whom must he not listen (v10)? With whom would they ask him to be (v11a)? To do what (v11b–c)? How do they describe their success (v12)? And their reward (v13)? What fellowship does v14 promise? What counsel does v15a give? And what further precaution in v15b? To what are they really running (v16)? And to what does v17 compare this? Because whom must they really destroy (v18)? What general desire will always do this (v19)?

How can we escape self-destruction? Proverbs 1:8–19 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these twelve verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **heeding good counsel and watching against the companionship of the worldly are means by which we may escape self-destruction.**

Choose the right allies, v8. There is a temptation to be friends with those whose desires and attitudes align with our heart's. But the problem is that we must have a new heart, and even if we do have a new heart, there is that fleshliness that remains from before. So, we must identify who is an ally to the flesh and who is an ally to the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:16–17). A godly father and mother are allies to the Spirit. It is the Lord's instruction and the Lord's discipline that they are to give (cf. Eph 6:4). Here, the word for "law," "*torah*," which originated in the instruction of a father, and solidified into the "house rules" of societies, is attributed to the mother. Youth will hear different attitudes and desires and instructions from different people. Everything must be measured against Scripture, but the youth with a godly parent has an excellent guide. Father and mother are not only the first ones that they listen to, but they can know whom else to listen to by whether those people think and speak similarly to their parents.

Aim for the right beauty, v9. Godliness is its own adornment. Not just for women as in 1Tim 2:10 and 1Pet 3:4. Here, the son is told that rather than the sort of adornment that the world sees as hallmarks of wealth and nobility, being his father's son and his mother's son in his public presentation will be what marks him as noble before those whose opinions he should care about.

Recognize and reject enticements to sin, v10–14. "Do not consent" (v10). Give that resolute "no." Don't slide into compliance. Watch out for how you could end up doing so: they present the sin as easy (v11), successful (v12), rewarding (v13), and uniting (v14). You must reject that sort of ease, that sort of success, that sort of reward, and that sort of unity.

Take extra precautions, v15. To keep yourself from walking in that way, guard even the placement of your foot!

Remember the Lord's providence and justice, v16–18. Carelessness about others' lives is carelessness about your own soul. God watches, and He responds personally to you not just in the ups and downs of providence in this life, but in everlasting penalty in the next.

Guard even your very heart, v19. This is not merely instruction for the "how-to." It is instruction for the desires of the heart. When greed rules the heart, it takes you in the path of self-destruction. Guard your heart!

Whom do you know who have the godliest desires and counsel? Who is most into worldly gain and "fellowship"?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for arming us against the fleshly desires of our hearts. Grant that we would listen to godly parents and other godly counselors, who would help us resist even a wrong desire, and guard the placement of our feet, to keep us out of self-destroying paths, we ask through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH508 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Proverbs 1 verses 8 through 19. These are God's words. My son here, the instruction of your father. And do not forsake the law of your mother. For they will be a graceful ornament on your head and chains about your neck. My son of Sinners entice, you do not consent.

If they say come with us, let us lie and wait to shed blood. Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause let us swallow them alive, like sheol. And whole like those who go down to the pit, We shall find all kinds of precious possessions. We shall fill our houses with spoil cast in your lot.

Among Us. Let us all have one purse. My son did not walk in the way with them. Keep your foot from their path. For their feet run to evil. They make haste to shed blood. And surely in vain the net to spread in the sight of any bird. But they lie and wait for their own blood.

They lurk secretly. For their own lives. So are the ways of everyone. Who is greedy for gain? It takes away the life. Of its owners. Human listens, this reading of gods. Inspired and, and it worked.

The instruction in verses 8 and 9. Teaches us that we are.

The instruction in verse 8. teaches us that we are Choose the right allies. God gives us at the first, our father and mother, and Especially in believing households believing families. he gives us. Easy, first allies. To have first friends to choose. Or at least they're supposed to be easy.

There's a reminder here in verse 8. But we have God saying. Hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake. The law of your mother, putting it on Solomon's lips to Solomon's son with The affectionate address my son. Not just love for his son but recognizing his duty his appointment as his own, son's particular father.

That. all Christian parents are to consider their children, particularly assigned to them by God. A duty or responsibility. A privilege. assigned to them by their creator and by their Redeemer. And so must Mom and I think and feel and act with respect to all of you. And all Christian children.

Must consider their parents even if their parents are not Christian. But must consider their parents. A particular assignment to them from God. So that they seek from their parents. All All that instruction and all of those Commandments that are true according to God's word. And if Christian Child, has Christian parents, how much more?

He? To. His father's instruction and to stick to his mother's law. Now, this means for the Christian parent that we are not permitted. To bring up our children quote, unquote, as we see fit. But that we are to continually be learning from the Lord and seeking to obey the Lord in what he says to do.

So, when he Gives instruction to the parents. He the fathers in particular, he says that we are to bring our children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. The Lord's instruction and the Lord's discipline. And so here, Proverbs 1 verse 8 takes for granted has as a necessary implication.

That the instruction of the father is going to be the instruction from the Lord, that the law of the mother. Is going to be. The law of the Lord. That Mom and Dad are going to help you. To think more according to The word of God. Help you to think.

According to God's word. Help you to love God. Help you to obey God. And that the consequence of, You're having a close relationship with and hearing, hearing and hearing. What Mom and Dad say is that, you will think more according to God's word. And that you will love God more and you will obey God more.

Now, this is to be a pattern for you. For how you choose companions for the rest of your life. Psalms and Proverbs both begin Psalm, 1 begins. And now here in Proverbs chapter 1, it begins. With a warning. Not to walk with the Wicket. He says, don't even let your foot enter.

Their path. Keep your foot from their path. He says, in verse 15. The choice of. Who will be your friends? In life. One of the greatest. Factors in your knowing, god in your loving God in Obeying God. And so for believing families, God starts you out with the first set.

Your parents There are other friends later, but these friends should be secondary to your parents until You are. Out from the household in which case you should be either married or on the verge of or looking to get married. And in that case, the most important question, is, does this person?

Intend. Is there great intention toward me that I would know. God more, love God, more and Obey God more. And is the interaction that we have together. As a result of God's gracious work in in them and God's gracious. Work in me and God's blessing upon the intersection of Our Lives as the result of my interacting with them that Know God, more love God, more and Obey.

God more. Now, there are other friends along the way between now and then they should not be to you closer friends than your parents are to you. But even for those other friends, The test of whether they should be friends to you is, is their intention towards you and is God's blessing upon you when you've when you are spending time with them and when you have just finished spending time with them, is the consequence.

That you know God more love God, more obey, God more. Intellect, affections and will. Which are the faculties of the Soul. And so there is a design. The believer. There's a design for believing parents and children that this is the effect that we would have upon one another. This is how friendships should be chosen.

This is how Especially a marriage should be considered. A potential spouse should be considered. And this is how all of our friendships should be. And praise God. Then we realize that our greatest friend is never even mom or dad. But that God has come and made himself our friend, especially in his son and in his Spirit by means of his word.

In which he addresses Us by means of prayer, in which he gives us to address him in a manner that still is conforming our hearts and Minds to his, because we're doing it according to his word. That Christ would be your great friend in life. And that his Spirit by whom, he has come now to be your friend, to his Spirit whom he has, given to be with you and to dwell in you Would be your great friend in life.

And so choosing the right friends. Is. The first great part. Of wisdom in all of the Book of Proverbs. And how many Have Shipwrecked their lives. By not hating father and mother early in life. By choosing wrong friends along the way in the middle. And then, A poor choice of friend.

Not according to the pattern of this first friendship that God has given us. In our life. But a poor or wrong choice when it has come to a spouse. The second thing then that we see is not just choose the right friends in verse 8.

Love you guys. Have a good day. Yep. Love you guys. Have a good day. No.

what sounds did I send my schedule to the chat? You didn't but I'd appreciate it if when you get a moment, you know. Thank you. It's the trash.

Love you. Bye.

So the first thing is to choose the right friends. In verse 8. But the second thing is to aim for the right Beauty. In verse 9. The instruction of the father and the law of the mother are now said in verse 9. For they will be a graceful ornament on your head and chains.

About your neck. Now, this isn't just Beauty. This is also a way of identifying the person and their class and their Authority. Remember, this is a king with his son and he's saying, to his son. And the thing that identifies you as beautiful or Handsome, or powerful or kingly.

Is not the Royal crown on your head. And the Royal ornaments that would hang from your neck as, as the official King But the godliness. That you learn from the word of God, by those friends whom God gives you in particular, the parents and in this case, but especially from his word.

Especially by his spirit's application of his word to, That that godliness is the what makes someone kingly and Noble and attractive and this.

And this is what we should desire that others would find attractive to us and identifying us as the sort of person they want to associate with. The sort of person that they admire or would want to imitate. That we would not have. As our ornament. You know, the newest famous.

Two hundred dollar shoes. or fancy car. that others might admire or a particular kind of hairstyle or fashion that sticks out and Announces. Us as trendy, or Physically physical Beauty, even This is very similar to the instruction in first Timothy 2 when he says, let the adornment of The Godly woman, you know, not be the clothing or the hair or Etc but let it be her good works.

But let it be her good works. So also Walking in fellowship with God, according to his word, knowing him, loving him obeying. These are the things that ought to identify us and commend. as desirable to associate with or admire. or imitate So we have choosing the right friends in verse 8 aiming at the right Beauty in verse nine and then recognizing and rejecting various enticement enticements In verses 10 through 14.

He's he summarizes verses 10 through 14 and verse 10. When he says my son, if Sinners entice, you do not consent. And so, we are to be watching out for these enticements and watching out with the purpose of giving a Resolute, null in our hearts and Minds first, and And then to them, secondarily.

When they? Try to get us to go with them into sin, or to stumble into the same sin. come consenting or complying with Sinners, is something that if we do, not give it that no that do not consent that we will naturally slouch and slide into And so you must be aware and you must be Resolute.

If you're just going to kind of go along with things, if you're going to be passive, then you're going to be sucked in. These are enticements They draw you in. And so, he's giving warning ahead of time that there are going to be these ways of your being drawn in to sin that you must be on the lookout for and determined against And what are these?

one is they they offer that it's going to be easy. Lion weight to shed. Blood leak. Lurk secretly. For the innocent verse 11 and so it's an easy thing to do. We'll get away with it. That is the idea in verse 11, that's one of the ways.

That we are enticed to. we will be very successful not just That it will be easy and we're being clever in verse 11, but we'll be very successful just swallow them alive. The swallow them whole. verse 12. So, the the allurements of or the attraction, the enticement of being able to To do it impressively and quickly, and powerfully and entirely.

the enticement of success. So Easiness success profit. It'll be rewarding. We shall find all kinds of precious possessions shall fill our houses with spoil. So watch out For that, which presents itself on the basis of being easy, that which presents itself on the basis. Of your ability to.

To be very impressive in how you do it. Watch out for that which promises you all sorts of possessions and treasures. Verse 13, watch out for the unity and the fellowship enticement in verse 14, cast in your lot Among Us, let us all have one purse. You can have belonging here.

Many a person has fallen into sin. Because of the desire to be. To have belonging. With others. who are sinning and so this unity and this Unitedness. That is presented in verse 14. All of these. Are enticements. There are things not to look for with desire.

When you find your heart longing. For those things. watch out. Bring such a longing. to the Lord. And, Seek seek from him that your heart would not be made vulnerable to these. Enticements So, these are things to watch against so that when you recognize that, there's that Dynamic with others.

Who are not the sort of first people who are trying to get you to know. God more, love God, more obey, God more. And that is not the outcome of spending time with them. You don't come away from spending time with them saying, well I know God more. I love God more.

Now I obey God I'm resolved obey. God I'm going to obey God more now So that you can watch against these other and these enticements to To have as your companions. People who don't help you know love and Obey God more so that you can give it a Resolute, no, in your heart.

And if it comes to it, if reason is demanded by them so that you can give them a Resolute. No, with your lips as well. But in most cases, you can just choose with your feet and and not walk into their path. That brings us to verse 15 and take extra precautions.

He doesn't just say, do not walk in the way with them. Okay, so the idea is you haven't actually joined them yet, but you're leaving that option, open. You're kind of walking in the same path. No, don't even do that. Don't leave the option, open. And then, in the first half of verse 15, and then verse the second half of verse 15 is is even more forceful.

Not just don't leave the option, open. Physically intentionally, move your foot. To a different path. Okay, so Guard. Even the placement of your foot as it were verse 15 and that may actually end up being literally physical. when there are people gathered Who are not helping you, the sport that will help you to know God, more, love God, more obey.

God more. That you just move your feet somewhere. That is not by where their feet are. And since both of your feet, your feet and theirs happen to be attached to your body, you will have defended your self-protected yourself by the moving 4 feet. And then remember, of course, the Lord's Providence and Justice.

Verses 16 through 18 their feet run to evil. They make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain, the net has spread in the sight of any bird. Now, birds are not generally. Creatures of great wisdom and power. But if The bird can see you spreading your net. you are not going to catch the bird, is what he's saying in verse 17.

Well, how much more the Living God, who sees all and judges? All And so, when we think about what we are doing, we are first to remember, That the Lord of Heaven and Earth who works all things. According to the counsel of his will, who is just and holy and will surely punish every evil doer that he always sees.

Everything that we are doing. So that those who Are not aiming to know him or love him or obey him more. Are planning their self-destruction. They're planning their own destruction. whatever else they are doing in life. If it is not to know God, more, love God, more obey, God more.

It is self-destruction because it is in the sight of God, it corresponds very well with our catechism question this week. Of what the first commandment requires. So that it's not just the actions and the words, and who you choose, as friends. And, and all those things is even the heart verse 19.

So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain. It takes away the life. Of its owners. So watch, even your heart. That you would not be greedy for gain but that you would be greedy for God. That you would consider him. Great gain and anything in which you do not have him.

to be absolute rubbish. So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain, it takes away the life. Of its owner's guard, your very heart. So choose the right friends, aim for the right Beauty. Recognize and reject enticements to sin. Take extra precautions. Remember the Lord's Providence and Justice?

And guard, even your very heart. Let's pray.

We thank you. Father in heaven that you have given us one another. to be friends with And to walk with in this life. And we pray that you would. Give us especially to see your son. Our Lord Jesus. As the friend who sticks closer than a brother. We pray that you would, Give us to heed the Instruction In this passage.

So that our hearts would by your own means by your own. blessing your word to us. Our hearts and our very selves would belong to you. And that we would have. Blessedness, and Dignity in you and with you forever and ever. And this whole lifelong. We ask it in Jesus name, amen.