

## Week #8 Proverbs 1:11-19

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*If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse" - my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the lives of those who get it."*  
Prov. 1:11-19

As we continue to study this passage in the book of Proverbs we see the father encouraging his son to avoid the company of sinners and to not be counted among them. This gang of sinners invites the son to join in with them and to share in the wealth that they are planning on taking from others. The father points out the dangers of joining in with them and reminds the son that this choice is a matter of life and death. When these sinners are inviting you to join them it may have all the appearance of something that would be valuable, but in the end it would be worthless.

Children, as you grow up and make choices there may be times when others will try to convince you with some scheme to get rich quick or to compromise what is right in order to get ahead or win. To grow up to be wise you need to learn to remember what is right in God's eyes and allow His teaching to guide you.

You don't have to learn what is right and wrong by yourselves. God has placed others in your lives to help you learn to be wise. There is strength in numbers and to illustrate this let's take a few minutes and review the four commandments we have been discussing in the last few weeks. Turn to page 2.

The book of Ecclesiastes (4:12) teaches, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." There is strength in numbers. While our passage in Proverbs points out the dangers of following the crowd in doing what is bad, I want to point out that as families and a community we can also stand together to do what is good. We can invite each others to love and serve God. While you are warned against sinners leading you in wrong ways, we want to encourage you to join together with us to do what is right.

As we learned when we studied the disciple's prayer, we are to be a people of God who pray to our Father in heaven and ask that His will be done. We want to focus on God and His ways and trust Him to help us learn together to do what is right. Consider also the words of this Psalm:

*Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun. Psalm 37:1-6*