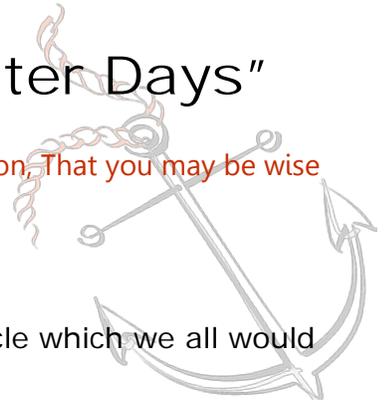




"Wise In Your Latter Days"

"Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be wise in your latter days" (Prov. 19:20).



WE are going to consider a proverb in this *Anchored* article which we all would do well to live by.

Solomon shows how the wise one is one who has **grown** in life by *listening to* and *receiving* instruction. His wisdom in his early days was to take counsel and instruction, which then formed a wise man in his *latter* days. Make no mistake about it: As life demands its participants to grow and mature in order to survive, so does true religion also. We do not enter the kingdom as grown men but as babes, who must grow up into the stature of Christ. We will gain knowledge, which becomes the basis for wisdom; there will be misunderstanding that will be corrected.

If our judgment skills are the same as when we first obeyed, then we have not grown in faith. The Hebrew writer admonished his readers that they should have at this time developed into teachers and had been able to ingest the meatier parts of the word (Heb. 5:11–14). The reason they could not handle the meatier portions of God's word was because of their lack of "use" and because they had not trained their senses to properly discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:14). Proper development comes from listening to counsel and receiving instruction, so that in our latter days we may be wise. Peter put it this way:

"Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Pet. 2:1–3).

It should be evident that malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and evil speaking are not only sinful but derail spiritual growth as well as betray the gracious nature of Christ. In honesty, we should gage if we are growing. If we are not, we should ask, "Why? Is it because I am not teachable and find it difficult to heed counsel and instruction?" If malice, deceit, hypocrisy, etc. are present, then we know why our growth is stunted and perhaps, why we choke on gospel exposition and application.

Let us strive all the more to receive *with meekness* the implanted word of God (Jas. 1:21).



—Steven J. Wallace