

REFLECTIONS ON PROVERBS 25

BY TOM ROBERTS, WRCC ELDER

Timely advice is lovely, like golden apples in a silver basket. To one who listens, valid criticism is like a gold earring or other gold jewelry. Proverbs 25: 11 – 12

Many of you know I spent quite a few years serving with the United States Army. We had a word for *timely advice* ... it was called Footlocker Counseling. The image you were supposed to have was of you and your mentor sitting on footlockers in the barracks where your mentor was giving you tips and explaining “how things were done around here”... something akin to that warm glowing image you see on TV in a military recruiting ad. Often, the soldier’s version of Footlocker Counseling was your mentor upending the contents of your footlocker on your head. In any case, timely advice was good advice and we were all fortunate to receive it. Even if it took several years for us to realize it, we lived by it and it made us better soldiers.

I’ve always liked the imagery that Solomon weaves into his writing. It has spoken to me due to its clarity and unmistakable meaning. Solomon was authentic in his writing. You got to see the good and the bad of his life through his writing; he didn’t try to cover anything up. Because of that, I find his words of wisdom and advice priceless... something I should pay attention to... treat as something of great value.

As I read Proverbs, I ask myself, what good and timely advice is Solomon offering? Upon reflection, I come up with three areas in how Proverbs helps us:

Encouragement // Times get tough for all of us. Times are tough now. In reality, there is nothing in this world to turn to; there’s no comfort for us here. If you need to reflect more on this, turn one book to the right of Proverbs and read Ecclesiastes. This book gives his view of human wisdom.

Instruction // Advice and practical instruction on how we should live our lives in such a way that honors God, our family and those around us.

Character development // Instruction on allowing God to train us in how to think. Our actions should spring from our innermost God-shaped being and not our emotions or what human wisdom tells us is appropriate.

I think all of us could agree that good advice from Proverbs is woven through each of these areas. The question is will we allow this good advice to become the practical principles by which we live? Don’t waste this “forced downtime”... let God speak to you through the Proverbs.



Lord, speak to us through the words of Solomon. Let us discover what right looks like. May we seek Godly wisdom and apply it in our daily lives. We lift up our families, our congregation, our leaders, and our nation in this time of crisis. Thank you for your Son, Jesus. Amen.