Friend Factor

Tony Mauck · Proverbs 1:8–29

INTRODUCTION

- I bring up these examples to you to show the influence that our peers have upon us.
- We know that from passages like 1 Corinthians 15 and verse 33. Bad company corrupts good morals.
- Peers influence us, and it doesn't matter whether you're 15 or 55.

1 God's Plan for Your Life

2 Kings 11:2; Ephesians 5:1–2; 1 Peter 5:5–6

- If you would be faithful to the Lord, God has a way to use you effectively and powerfully in his cause.
- Who knows what God may be planning to do with you in your life.
- Let me tell you what God's plan is for your life. Plain and simple, it's about the welfare of your soul.
- Whatever your plans are, it needs to coincide with God's plan, and his plan must be first in your thoughts and in your pursuits.
- Your choices and decisions to live righteously impact the lives of others.

2 Somebody Else's Plan for Your Life

Proverbs 1:10; Proverbs 1:18–19; Proverbs 1:29

- When you head down a path toward destruction, the devil's not there with neon signs saying, Don't go here.
- Whatever it is they're offering to you that's a violation of the will of God, it is going to be couched in the idea of this is fun.
- My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.
- What's the end result of that course, of that plan? Well, it's not God's plan. This is going to be ambush and ruin.

3 Not Safe Merely Because You Are With Another Christian

- Number one, you are not safe merely because you are with another Christian.
- Beware of the influence of one who may be a Christian, who is encouraging you to do evil.
- Sometimes we let our guard down because we're with people who should know better, but Christians have struggles too.

4 Go Against the Current

2 Timothy 2:22

- You must be prepared to go against the current and go against the flow. This will not be the majority decision.
- You've got to be ready to flee from youthful lusts.
- You need to be convinced before those occasions ever happens of the surpassing wisdom and value of doing right.
- Let's talk to people about our allegiance to the Lord, and that's why we're making such and such a decision.

5 Be Empowered

- Be ready for these occasions by developing spiritual traits such as meditation and prayer and self-control.
- If the only time we ever pray and think about God is in a church building, we're in trouble.
- We need to absolutely rule out addictive behaviors.
- You need to be watchful of even a small partaking in those things.

6 Choose the Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 1:29

- That fear factor is what we read in Proverbs chapter 1 about embracing knowledge and choosing the fear of the Lord.
- We need to fear him more than we fear our peers.
- You ought to fear him who was able to destroy both soul and body.

THE CHALLENGE

If your soul is not right with God, that danger is an ever-present one. And you need to remedy that while there's time and opportunity.

MY NOTES