



# TRUTH & RIGHT

*the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ*

**WELLSBURG**  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



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**Volume 14 Issue 46**

**November 17, 2019**

## **UNSOLICITED ADVICE**

“A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind,” Proverbs 18:2. “The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; the one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin,” Proverbs 13:3. One of the most undetected missteps in our lives can be that of our intention to help others with advice or counsel that was not sought after. We mean well. We see a problem and want to provide the needed help necessary to fix it. We have prayed over it and sought the helpful tips and points that would seem to be most helpful. We offer what would seem to be wise advice that brings results, and yet, the advice isn’t followed, or the one with the issue appears to become agitated that they’re receiving it. This can often seem foolish or even petty to us. After all, Solomon, the wisest of

all, even points to a sign of wisdom is that of receiving wise counsel and taking advice. “A wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,” Proverbs 1:5. “Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning,” Proverbs 9:9. Solomon also points out that those who readily receive advice are typically those who are seeking or asking for it. “The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on folly,” Proverbs 15:14. “The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge,” Proverbs 18:15. Jesus taught that it is the one who is genuinely and actively seeking that finds. “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will

be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened," Matthew 7:7-8. A great misconception can be that since we are our brother's keeper (Gen. 4:9-10), certain boundaries can be discarded and ignored in the overall serving of each other's needs. "Like one who takes a dog by the ears is he who passes by and meddles with strife not belonging to him," Proverbs 26:17. "Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name," 1 Peter 4:15-16. A great passage which addresses the wisdom on both ends, the wisdom of the one who possesses and shares great counsel and advice along with the one who seeks it is Proverbs 20:5: "A plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out." The one who possesses great wisdom and counsel (and the sign that such a one is full of such wisdom) is usually one who is not constantly freely pouring it out upon others, but is rather reserved, waiting for someone who is truly genuinely seeking it who is wise enough

to draw that water of wise counsel out of them. A while back, I had come across an article written by a confessed "reformed serial-advice-giver" where they provide 5 tips for giving advice. 1) **Listen.** "He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him," Proverbs 18:13. Good listening skills are essential for us to build successful and vibrant relationships. Through active listening and thoughtful question asking, we will be able to accurately assess a person. Giving others an opportunity to talk about what is important to them, we are building trust and increasing our understanding of their unique perspective. We are not only gathering information but beginning to stir their heart with questions and guiding the conversation toward step 2. 2) **Discern.** "Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue," Proverbs 17:28 (NIV). In the New Testament, Jesus Christ utilized questions to reprove, to teach, to involve and to determine the quality of people's faith. Asking thoughtful questions will help you to discern what another is looking for. Do they just need to vent or are they specifically seeking your counsel? 3)

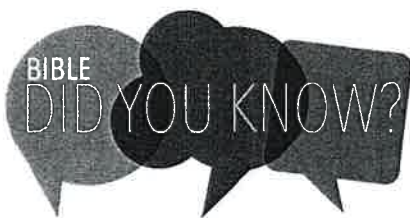
**Advice.** “Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you,” Matthew 5:42. A well known counselor and interventionist, Jeff VanVonderen, encourages advice-givers to say only the “shortest truest thing.” It is important we limit our advice to the particular aspect of the individual’s life that they are seeking help in. The key to successful advice-giving is to only give one small piece of advice and immediately evaluate how they respond before giving more. 4)

**Evaluate.** “Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine,” Matthew 7:6. One small truth at a time. Then evaluate how the other responds to it. Do they crack the door open a bit more by asking follow-up questions? Or do they toss it back in your face and withdraw behind the safety of a locked door? Do they quickly apply the truth, or do they fail to change? This is the most valuable step of the advice-giving process because it will be the foundation upon which you build all future conversations. 5) **Release.**

“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure,” Philippians 2:13. Once you

have faithfully walked through the first four steps of the advice-giving process, it is time to release the results of the conversation into the hands of the loving Savior. No matter how much we care for others, it is not our job to fix their problems. You’ve given your advice, now it’s time to trust that the Lord is at work in the midst of their pain. This step is absolutely crucial because it protects you from drowning in other people’s problems.

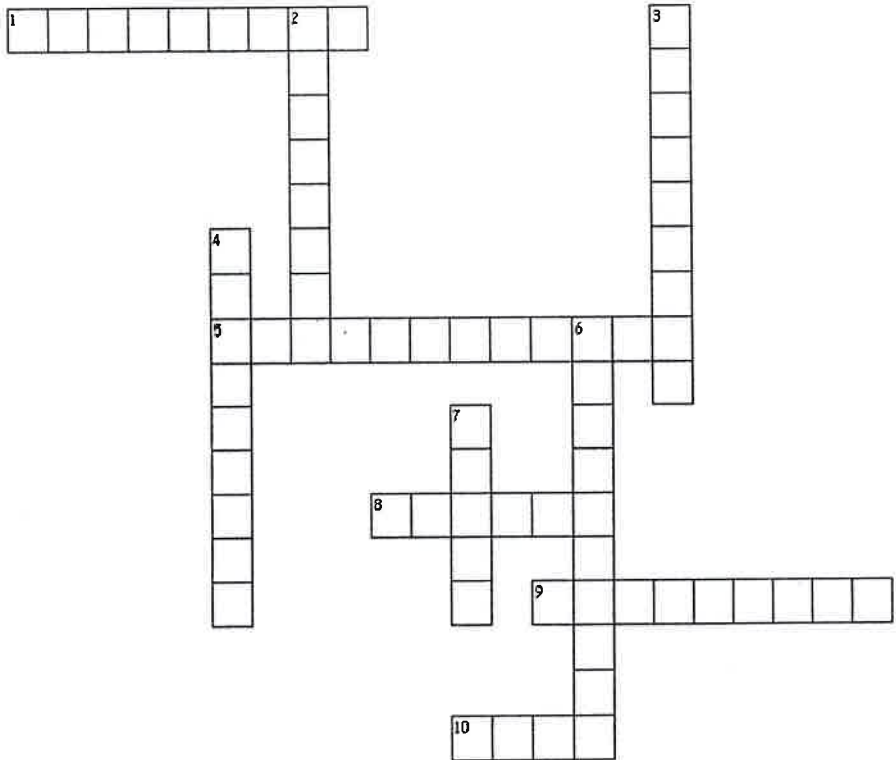
“When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor and make known the statutes of God and His laws.” Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you are doing is not good. You will surely wear out, both yourself and these people who are with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone,” Exodus 18:16-18.  
– Daniel Ruegg



***“Jesus wept.”***  
***John 11:35***

The

U L T M T E  
C R S S W O R D



### ACROSS

1. Name of field where Judas hung himself. (Acts 1:18-19)
5. Those chosen for apostleship were witnesses of \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:22)
8. Jesus presented Himself alive by many convincing \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:3)
9. Jesus wanted the Apostles to be His \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:8)
10. They drew \_\_\_\_\_ to see if Joseph or Matthias was an apostle (Acts 1:26)

### DOWN

2. The lot fell to \_\_\_\_\_ to replace Judas. (Acts 1:26)
3. The Apostles asked Jesus if he was \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom to Israel. (Acts 1:6)
4. One put forward to replace Judas was called \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:23)
6. When Judas hung himself his \_\_\_\_\_ gushed out (Acts 1:18)
7. Jesus was taken up to Heaven in a \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 1:9-11)