

# COUNSELLOR

## Isaiah 9:6

### INTRODUCTION

- Following the wrong advice can have disastrous consequences
- Many have lost money, health and even their lives through following bad counsel
- But the greatest tragedy when people follow bad spiritual counsel, and lose their eternal souls
- All our problems can be traced to wrong counsel; and all their solutions can be found in good counsel
- How did this world come under the curse of sin, and how did we become subject to suffering and death?
- What did Satan through the serpent actually do to Eve? We read nothing of his physical actions, only what he *said* to her
- Ever since, the father of lies has been feeding the people of this world with bad counsel, and most are prepared to follow it
- But just as the whole world was plunged into darkness by a counsellor, so the salvation of the world is given through a Counsellor
- Ultimately the critical choice every one of us must make is whose counsel we will follow: God's or Satan's
- The Book of Proverbs describes this dichotomy of counsel through two women: wisdom and folly (See Proverbs 8-9)
- Previously in Isaiah 9:6 we considered Christ's name of Wonderful; we will today consider this second name, Counsellor
- In Scripture, a counsellor is an advisor, particularly to kings (1 Chronicles 27:32-33)
- A counsellor was highly regarded for his wisdom (2 Samuel 16:23)
- At the time of Isaiah's prophecy, king Ahaz was a poor counsellor who preferred to trust in Assyria than in the Lord, and thereby brought judgment on the nation
- In contrast to Ahaz, the Lord would give his people a true and wise Counsellor to guide them in the ways of righteousness and life

## **I. OUR INHERENT WANT OF A COUNSELLER**

- A. In our natural state we are ignorant and blind
  - 1. Our fallen state, inherited from Adam, has left us without spiritual understanding, and alienated from God (Ephesians 4:18; 1 Peter 1:14)
  - 2. This ignorance must be humbly acknowledged if we are to be wise (Job 8:9; Psalm 73:22)
  - 3. Most people in their pride refuse to admit their true spiritual state before God (John 9:41; Revelation 3:17)
- B. In our natural state we are in rebellion against God
  - 1. We are like sheep gone astray, and turned to our own way (Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 9:36)
  - 2. The theme song of this world is, "I Did It My Way"

## **II. CHRIST'S INCOMPARABLE WORTHINESS TO COUNSEL**

- A. As the Second Person of the Godhead, he is privy to all the decrees of God
  - 1. Along with the Father and the Spirit, he forms the cabinet council of heaven into which no created being is admitted
  - 2. The Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth (John 5:20)
  - 3. The term "counsel" with reference to God means more than advice and instruction; it denotes his eternal purposes being carried out in his creation (Acts 2:23)
- B. His divine attributes make him the best Counseller
  - 1. He is from everlasting (Micah 5:2)
  - 2. He knows all things (John 16:30)
  - 3. He has the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, the fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2-3)
  - 4. Christ is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24)
  - 5. In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col 2:3)
  - 6. He knows what is in man (John 2:25)

- C. His incarnation has made him even more fit to be Counsellor (Hebrews 4:15)
- D. He receives counsel from no man (Isaiah 40:13; Romans 11:33-36)
  - 1. Many have thought they could “counsel” the Lord (cf. Matthew 16:22)
- E. His motives are altogether good
  - 1. Christ’s thoughts for his people are not for evil, but for our peace (Jeremiah 29:11)
  - 2. He has demonstrated his love for us and his desire for our eternal welfare, by giving his life for us

### **III. THE INSTRUCTING WAY HE COUNSELS US**

- A. Christ counsels us by his Word
  - 1. One of the great titles of Christ is “the Word” (*logos*) which presents him as the supreme revelation and expression of God (Jn 1:1,14; 1 John 1:1)
  - 2. The entire Bible is the “word of Christ” (Colossians 3:16), inspired by the Spirit of Christ (1 Peter 1:11)
  - 3. The Lord Jesus gives us counsel through his word in every area of our lives
    - a. Marriage counselling (Ephesians 5)
    - b. Children’s counselling (Ephesians 6:1-2)
    - c. Financial counselling (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:10)
- B. Christ counsels us by his Spirit
  - 1. The Holy Spirit reproves us of our sin (John 16:8)
  - 2. The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us (John 16:14)
  - 3. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth (John 16:13)
- C. Christ counsels us by his servants
  - 1. The Lord has appointed teachers in the church to expound his word to us (Ephesians 4:11)
    - a. They are to be careful to only speak according to God’s word (Deuteronomy 18:20; Isaiah 8:20; 2 Timothy 4:2)

- b. They are to declare “all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27)
  - c. They are to speak as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11)
  - d. Those who hear are to receive the word that is preached (Acts 17:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:20; James 1:21)
2. All believers have a responsibility to speak the counsels of God to others (Matthew 10:8)

## CONCLUSION

1. There are many “wicked counsellors” (Nahum 1:11) in the world – in the media, government, schools, workplaces and churches who are speaking satanic lies, leading people to eternal ruin
2. Many professing Christians have allowed worldly counsel to corrupt their thinking (Proverbs 19:27)
3. The blessed man walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, but in the law of the LORD (Psalm 1:1-2)
4. Have you come to the place where you have humbly acknowledged your sinful ignorance and blindness before God and sought his grace and counsel through Jesus Christ? (Revelation 3:18)
5. Multitudes in this world are searching for direction and answers to life’s great questions, and are asking like Thomas, “How can we know the way?” (John 14:5)
6. The answer that Jesus gave to the Thomas is the answer he gives to every person: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)
7. God is worthy of our blessing and praise for giving us counsel (Psalm 16:7)
8. “The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.” (Psalm 33:10-11)
9. Christ promises to all those who will submit to him, “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Psalm 32:8)
10. Will you pray: “Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths” (Psalm 25:4)
11. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Counsellor; can you truly say that he is *your* Counsellor?