

Words of Wisdom by John T Polk II For WECO FM 101.3 and The Fellowship Room

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

3-14–2016 Herding Children

Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, And attend to your herds; For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations (**Proverbs 27:23-24**).

"Riches" and power ("crown") can leave as quickly as they came, but "flocks" and "herds" are renewable resources. In the next three verses (**Proverbs 27:25-27**), Solomon shows that by feeding them, in return, they provide clothing, milk, and goats sold to buy more land. These animals deserve proper care and feeding because they can provide much in return. Isn't it tragic that some are more "diligent" in caring for their animals than they are their children? They never seem to realize how much children can provide in return for their diligence.

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward (**Psalm 127:3**).

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#### **3-15–2016** Protesting Protesters

Gentiles begged to hear more of the Gospel of Christ, so:

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul (Acts 13:44-45).

It was not enough that, instead of being full of faith, unbelieving Jews were "filled with envy," or boiling zeal, and lost their reasoning and control. They became tyrannical dictators of others' thoughts by voicing their negativity. Without proving their case, they simply denied what Paul preached. The wise Solomon had warned:

Do not associate with those given to change; For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring? (Proverbs 24:21-22).

Such people are up to no good!

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## 3-16–2016 How Did It Happen?

The "weeping prophet," Jeremiah, described his fallen people:

Remember, O LORD, what has come upon us; Look, and behold our reproach! Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, And our houses to foreigners. We have become orphans and waifs, Our mothers are like widows. We pay for the water we drink, And our wood comes at a price. They pursue at our heels; We labor and have no rest. We have given our hand to the Egyptians And the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread. Our fathers sinned and are no more, But we bear their iniquities. Servants rule over us; There is none to deliver us from their hand (Lamentations 5:1-8).

Their road to ruin was caused by their ungodly, corrupt society, led by their ungodly, corrupt government. Sound familiar? His prayer:

Turn us back to You, O LORD, and we will be restored (Lamentations 5:21).

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#### 3-17–2016 Domestic Abuse

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem (which occurred in 70 A.D.) by describing events before, and during, that horrible tribulation. Not only were these signs worldwide and regional, but also within families.

Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death (Mark 13:12).

Conditions would become so awful that family members would turn against each other. Truly, as Jesus later would say:

"Every city or house divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25).

It is "domestic abuse:" for a couple to live together without marrying; have children without the love of a home; and to turn against each other without devotion and loyalty!

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled (Hebrews 13:4).

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### 3-18-2016 Selfie Worship

People are taking "selfies," which means they now travel to exotic places where there are breath-taking sights, or high-dollar athletic events, or with family and friends, only to aim the camera at themselves! In the Bible, Christians should:

Let no one seek his own, but each one the others' well -being (1 Corinthians 10:24).

"Selfie" photographs can keep us so focused in the moment we lose sight of others. "Selfie" worship means going to "church" and impressing ourselves, and not God. God wants:

- "singing and making melody in your heart," (**Ephesians 5:19**), not with other instruments;
- meeting on the "first day of the week" "to break bread" (Acts 20:7), not any other day;
- "baptism" which "saves us" (1 Peter 3:21 KJV), not after we claim we're saved!

"Selfie" worship is not pleasing to God

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