## **The Fellowship Room**

## 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.

10-09-2017

**High Esteem** 

Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man (**Proverbs 3:3-4**).

"Favor and high esteem" comes because one has worked to make God's Word a part of his/her thinking. The Philippians were to receive Epaphroditus, Paul's "brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier" and "hold such men in esteem" (Philippians 2:25, 29). Within the churches of Christ:

We urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

There are NO "participation trophies" or "feeling good about one's self" without actually participating and obeying!

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10-10-2017

Life Goes On

Though people want to "change the world," or "cleanse the world," or "control the world," they fail.

One generation passes away, and another generation comes; But the earth abides forever. The sun also rises, and the sun goes down, And hastens to

the place where it arose. The wind goes toward the south, And turns around to the north; The wind whirls about continually, And comes again on its circuit. All the rivers run into the sea, Yet the sea is not full; To the place from which the rivers come, There they return again. All things are full of labor; Man cannot express it. The eye is not satisfied with seeing, Nor the ear filled with hearing (**Ecclesiastes 1:4-8**).

Whoever has no rule over his own spirit Is like a city broken down, without walls (**Proverbs 25:28**).

We must begin by changing ourselves.

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10-11-2017 Beware of What You Start

People devise things that eventually come back to, as we often say, haunt them, bite them, or backfire on them.

Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him (**Proverbs 26:27**).

David said,

... [The wicked] made a pit and dug it out, and has fallen into the ditch which he made. His trouble shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown (Psalm 7:15-16).

As Jesus said:

"All who take the sword will perish by the sword" (Matthew 26:52).

Truly,

An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression (**Proverbs 29:22**).

Whether "road rage" or "street fighting," beware of what you start, you may get finished.

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## 10-12-2017 Being "Religious" Without Jesus

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always (Acts 10:1-2).

This was a deeply-religious family man, whose prayers and contributions would have caused many churches to have voted him full membership. BUT, he was missing one important thing. God had chosen him to hear what he was missing in his religion – Jesus Christ. Peter was sent to tell him "words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14), and "commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48). It seems being "religious" is not enough for salvation without Jesus Christ.

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10-13-2017 What God Is Able to Do

John the Baptist told the Jews,

"Do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones" (Matthew 3:9).

Under the Gospel of Christ,

[Jews,] if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again (Romans 11:23).

And to Christians,

God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).

God is able to by-pass the Jews, save obedient Israelites, help Christians serve Him. The issue is never what God is able to do – but what are you willing to do? Jesus said,

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

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