

“WHAT DO YOU SAY?”

JOHN 7:1-9

Counsel comes to us from many different venues in addition to the licensed, professional ones: from magazines to columnists to friends to acquaintances to television shows to advertisements to siblings to self-help groups. Whose counsel are you really listening to and living by?

COUNSEL THAT KILLS

① _____ (7:3a)

If not careful, you can dump _____ words on the downtrodden and disillusioned people who cross your path each day. Instead, agree with the wisdom of Proverbs (13:3; 16:24; 18:21; 25:11; 27:9).

Words may inspire or incite; encourage or discourage; inflate or deflate.

② _____ (7:3b)

It only further encourages Christians to walk by sight and not by faith. This torpedoed _____.

Much of this counsel merely rearranges the furniture and applies a new coat of paint and offers a cute counseling Band-Aid that sidesteps the real issue.

Such methodologies may provide a quick fix, but seldom _____ for _____.

③ _____ (7:4)

“_____” drives the rationale.

Counsel must flow from the _____ and not around the _____.

④ _____ (7:5-6)

Any counsel you receive from an unbelieving world may have a dash of _____ sprinkled in, but is drenched in agnosticism, atheism, humanism and a whole host of other unbiblical philosophies.

It is never the Bible _____ but the Bible _____!

Why is the Bible relevant today?

1. The Author is _____.
2. The heart is the _____.

⑤ Worldly (7:7)

Why does James (3:15-16) describe the wisdom of this world so strongly, so severely? He knows that behind the _____ of this world is the _____ of this world (Ephesians 2:2; 6:12).

CONCLUSION

What counsel do you give to those around you? What advice do you share with the people beside you?

The greatest counsel you could ever give is the counsel of God. It's always appropriate. And it always targets the _____ – the place where change truly occurs