



The June 3, 2020 edition of TruNorth Daily Devotional with Dr Jim Brown:

## **“Practical Wisdom from the Proverbs”**

### **Proverbs 1:8-14**

***“My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck. My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say, ‘Come with us, let us lie in wait to shed blood; let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; let us swallow them alive like Sheol, and whole, like those who go down to the Pit; we shall find all kinds of precious possessions, we shall fill our houses with spoil; cast in your lot among us, let us all have one purse.’”***

Sometimes we think that “young people today” have become terrible about listening to their parents and learning from them. But Solomon was clearly seeing that as a problem some 3,000 years ago when he wrote this.

Here, Solomon encourages the readers to LISTEN to their parents, their fathers and mothers. He then promises: ***“For they will be a graceful ornament on your head (like a crown) or chains (necklaces) around one’s neck.”***

Then Solomon pivots to warn against “the dark side” – so to speak. The warning is against letting **“sinners entice you.”**

It’s significant that Solomon begins with his first specific instruction by warning against the company we keep. The people we spend time with, the friends we make. A wise man once said, *“Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future.”*

Ponder that statement. Hasn’t that been shown true in your life and/or the lives of those whom you know?

Solomon continues in his warning about the enticement and evil that these “sinner-friends” might suggest AND hints at how much more difficult it comes to break it off the longer and deeper these friendships become.

Today, murder is the second leading cause of death among teenagers (car accidents are #1). Is that sad or what?) Teen murders are ten times that of Western Europe and Seventy times that of Japan. And here is a stat for you: 75% of teen murders involve a gang.

Solomon here in Proverbs 1 is warning much like David did in Psalm 1:1

***“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.”***

The need to be careful of our friendships extends beyond youth and can make a difference – positive or negative – at any age.

I’d summarize these verses thusly:

- (1) Listen to our parents and learn from them, and
- (2) Be careful of the friendships we make the people we hang out with.

***Prayer: Lord, help me to be wise about the friendships I have and the new ones I make. Help me also Lord to BE that wise parent or grandparent to my family members and to pray regularly for my friends and family and to be wise about what I say to each. Amen.***