“No Really, Mind Your Own Business”

Introduction

A. You have heard it said, “Mind you own business.”

B. The expression “mind your own business” is not one we really like to hear.

C. Yet there actually is a passage of Scripture that says we are to “mind our own business.”

1. “That you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you” (1 Thess. 4:11 NKJV).

2. Cf. “to do your own business” (KJV).

D. This means we are to pay more attention to our own business than that of everybody else.

E. It is obviously good advice to mind our own business (cf. Prov. 4:25) — but it is also good advice to mind our own business.

F. The living of life is a “business” — and it does require some “minding.”

G. To mind means:

1. To attend to: Mind closely what I’m about to tell you.

2. To be careful about: Mind the icy sidewalk when you go out.

3. To look after: Mind the store while I’m gone.

H. The following is some simple, scriptural advice for attending to the business of life, especially for young people. .

I. Be Observant

A. There is a lot to be said for paying close attention to what we are doing, *learning from our own mistakes and successes*. Paul wrote, *“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith” (2 Cor. 13:5).*

B. “Sometimes you can observe a lot by watching” (Yogi Berra).

C. The human endowment of self-consciousness or self-awareness is a wonderful gift — **and most of us use it very little.**

D. A great part of the wisdom of right living is the ability to *thoughtfully notice the consequences of our actions* — and avoid the actions that have consequences we do not want.

1.  *(****Deut..32:29****).*

2.  *(****Prov. 14:8****).*

E. We need to learn to watch, to observe, to look and listen to ourselves - ***Proverbs 4:26****.*

II. Be Deliberate

A. The quality life — the life that pleases God — is the one that is chosen.

1.  *(****Josh. 24:15****).*

2.  *(****1 Kgs.18:21****).*

B. Too much of the time we live our lives haphazardly, randomly.

1. **We live by default, rather than decision**.

2. We take the course of least resistance.

C. When it comes to our “business,” we need to mind it — we need to be deliberate about our lives.

1. *“Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (****Prov. 4:23****).*

2. (***Lk. 10:42***).

III. Be Careful

A. The business of life requires a degree of caution and carefulness.  *(****1 Cor. 10:12****).*

B. Carefulness implies caring enough to work hard at the business of quality living.

1.  *(****Prov. 22:29*** *NKJV).* Cf. “diligent in his business” (KJV).

2.  *(****Rom. 12:11*** *NKJV).* Cf. “not slothful in business” (KJV).

C. *“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise” (****Eph. 5:15****).*

Conclusion

A. The simple reason we need to learn to mind our business is that it will not mind itself!

B. If we are not observant and deliberate and careful in the way we build our lives, we will not be happy with the results.

1. “But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For each one shall bear his own burden” (Gal. 6:4,5).

2. “Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you” (1 Tim. 4:15,16).

C. We need to “watch what we are doing”!

D. The most important thing in life, of course, is to be busy about the Father’s business: “And He said to them, ‘Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father’s business?’” (Lk. 2:49).

Cullman (Baldwin), AL 4-28-02; Middleburg, FL 07-0308; Cullman (157), AL 2015 06 28am