

When Retreating Pays Dividends

We're living in a time with great emphasis on the idea of moving ahead and never retreating. I love the hymn with the words in it, "NEVER GIVE UP", and am also a firm believer in what those words tell us. I do believe that in order to NEVER GIVE UP it also entails sometimes a time of RETREATING in the Christian life. Yours truly spent 37 months overseas in World War II, and participated in four invasions on the European Continent. I also participated in a hurried retreat in France while there, in order to come back later in victory. Note as we make some running comments on a few verses in Proverbs having to do with RETREATING in the Christian life:

1. 4:27 – *"Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."*
 - **BACK OFF** and continue to back off from that which would ruin you spiritually.
2. 10:19 – *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refrains his lips is wise."*
 - **HOLD OFF** of non-stop talking. Don't speak unless you can improve on the silence. Some talk like they have been vaccinated with a phonograph needle.
3. 14:7 – *"Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge."*
 - **TAKE OFF** from the presence of one showing his disrespect for GOD if you are in HIS PRESENCE for learning. Such a person is setting himself up for a date with GOD over among other things, accountable words. – Matthew 12:37
4. 22:3 – *"A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."*
 - **RUN OFF** and hide from that which will endanger your testimony. Don't be a SIMPLETON by closing your eyes to the consequences of enjoying the pleasures of sin for a season.
5. 24:21 – *"My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change."*
 - **LEAVE OFF** of those who discard the Bible's old fashioned time-proven ways for supposed helpful changes, else you will end up like the Australian who threw away his boomerang for a new one only to have it come back and kill him.

THE ANSWER TO IT ALL FROM THE SCRIPTURES

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." –Proverbs 3:6

-Rev. Charles Svoboda



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