

Who Will Be Our Counselor?

- The Counsel of God — His Determined and Unchanging Will
- The Counsel of Men — Wise, Foolish, and Destructive
- Jesus Christ — The Wonderful Counselor
- A Personal Decision — Whose Counsel Will We Follow?

Every day, whether we realize it or not, we are surrounded by influence, both good and bad.

- Influence comes from family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, or the news media;
- Influence even comes from, within our own hearts (or, our own Think so's - Isa.55:8-9).

The question is not whether we will be influenced,

but **which influence**, we will **allow to shape** our thinking, our decisions, and ultimately our eternity.

- **Whose Influence — Whose Counsel — Will We Follow?**

Before we listen to human reasoning, personal preference, or cultural opinion, we must anchor ourselves in,,

I. **The Counsel of God — His Determined and Unchanging Will**

Before we examine examples, we must understand the word itself.

A. What “Counsel” Means in Scripture

- God said, “My counsel **shall stand**, and I will do all My pleasure.” ([Isa.46:10](#))

Explanation:

- “**Shall stand**” means — remain firm and established.
- When God speaks, history moves toward its fulfillment.

The Hebrew writer wrote,

- “Wherein God, willing more abundantly, to shew unto the heirs of promise, the **immutability** of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath.” ([Heb.6:17](#))

Explanation:

- “**Immutability**” means — unchangeable or without variation, emphasizing that God's counsel remains forever, secured by His promise.

Imagine a mighty oak tree standing firm through storms;

God's counsel is like that, unchanging amid life's trials.

God's plan for salvation, foretold from the beginning, stands eternally, giving us confidence to trust Him, over fleeting human ideas.

Building on God's unchanging plan, we see how,

B. God's Counsel is Fulfilled in Redemption

The book of Acts, records how God's counsel was carried out through Jesus' death and resurrection, planned before the world began, for our salvation.

- “Him, being delivered by the **determinate counsel** and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands, have crucified and slain.” ([Acts 2:23](#))

Explanation:

- “**Determinate counsel**” refers — to God's fixed and deliberate plan, decided with perfect foreknowledge of all events.

- “For to do, whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel, **determined before**, to be done.” ([Acts 4:28](#))

Explanation:

- “**Determined before**” means — predestined or set in advance, showing God's counsel orchestrates history, for His glory and our good.

Picture a master builder, completing a grand house according to a blueprint;

God's counsel in redemption, is that blueprint, perfectly executed IN Christ.

Not only is God's counsel determined, and fulfilled in Redemption,

C. God's Counsel is Revealed and Must Be Served

David is described as serving God's will, in his generation.

- "For David, after he had **served** his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep..." ([Acts 13:36](#))

Explanation:

- "Served" means — to carry out or fulfill.
- David lived to accomplish God's will — not his own.
- We are not here to edit God's counsel — We are here to serve it.

In contrast to David,

- "the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected** the counsel of God against themselves..." ([Lk.7:30](#))

Explanation:

- "Rejected" means — to set aside.
- "Against themselves" means — it condemned their pride.
- God's counsel often corrects us — Rejecting it, is rejecting what would save us.

God's counsel is determined, revealed, and unchanging.

It must be served — not resisted.

But if God's counsel is perfect, why do so many people struggle?

Because, there is another kind of counsel...

II. The Counsel of Men — Wise, Foolish, and Destructive

When man steps outside of God's revealed will,

his own counsel becomes uncertain, incomplete, and often dangerous.

Let us now consider,

A. Wise Counsel That Aligns With God

Scripture does not condemn all human counsel — only that which opposes God.

- "There are many **devices** in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand." ([Prov.19:21](#))

Explanation:

- "Devices" means — plans or intentions.
- Only God's counsel, ultimately prevails.
- Good counsel, must harmonize with Scripture.

Now let us see a tragic example.

B. Rehoboam, Who Rejected Wise Counsel

King Rehoboam faced a decision, that would determine the unity of Israel.

- Scripture says, "**he forsook** the counsel of the old men...
And the king answered the people roughly...
And spake to them, after the counsel of the young men..." (read [1Kgs.12:8](#), [13-14](#))

Explanation:

- "Forsook" means — abandoned.
- He chose advice that fed pride.

Rehoboam listened to the counsel, that agreed with his ego. The result? Ten tribes rebelled.

Choosing the wrong counselor can divide families, churches, and even nations. Rehoboam's failure, shows national consequences.

But the first failure, shows universal consequences; that is,

C. Listening, to a Contrary Voice

In the garden, God had already spoken clearly.

- But “the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...” ([Gen.3:4-6](#))

Explanation:

- Satan contradicted God's word — He minimized consequences — He appealed to human desire.

Sin begins, when we give attention to counsel, that contradicts God.

The moment we begin to question, what God has plainly said, we have already begun listening, to the wrong influence.

- The Bible says, “Blessed is the man that walketh Not, in the counsel of the ungodly...” ([Psa.1:1](#))

Explanation:

- “Ungodly” means — without reverence for God.
- Blessing begins, by refusing ungodly counsel.

And so, we should,

- “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean Not, unto thine own understanding...” ([Prov.3:5-6](#))

Human counsel can help, when aligned with God;
But when driven by pride or rebellion, it always destroys.

If human counsel can fail us — and it can — where can we turn with certainty?

III. Jesus Christ — The Wonderful Counselor

A. The Promised Counselor

Centuries before Christ was born, Isaiah prophesied His nature.

- “...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor...” ([Isa.9:6](#))

Explanation:

- “Counsellor” refers to divine guidance and wisdom.
- Jesus as the Son of God, does not merely give advice — He embodies God's wisdom.

- “In Whom, are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” ([Col.2:3](#))

Explanation:

- All spiritual wisdom is found IN Christ Jesus.

If Jesus truly is the Wonderful Counselor, then His words are not optional — they are decisive.

B. Eternal Words That Determine Our Destiny

The Bible says, when many disciples left Jesus, Peter made a profound statement.

- “Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.” ([Jn.6:68](#))

Explanation:

- There is nowhere else, to find eternal truth.
- If the Word of Christ judges us ([Jn.12:48](#)), they must guide us.

Jesus is the complete expression of God's counsel — To follow Him is to follow God's will.

Now we come to the most important part...

IV. A Personal Decision — Whose Counsel Will We Follow?

Now we bring this lesson home — because this is not merely history or theology, It is personal. One of the most important questions of all is:

A. How to Be Saved — Whose Counsel Will We Follow?

The Bible says,

- “So then **Faith** cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” ([Rom.10:17](#))

Referencing the scene of the burning bush ([Ex.3:13-14](#)), Jesus said,

- “...IF ye **Believe Not** that I AM *he*, ye shall die in your sins.” ([Jn.8:24](#))
- “...Before Abraham was, I AM.” (Jesus said in [Jn.8:58](#))

Scripture declares,

- “...God... commandeth all men every where to **REPENT**.” ([Acts 17:30](#))
- “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye **REPENT**, ye shall all likewise perish.” ([Lk.13:3](#))

- “**IF** thou shalt **CONFESS** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, AND shalt **BELIEVE** in thine heart, that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart, man believeth **Unto Righteousness**; and with the mouth, confession is made **Unto Salvation**.” ([Rom.10:9-10](#); [Acts 8:36-37](#))

The Bible says,

- “**REPENT**, and Be **BAPTIZED**... for the remission of sins...” ([Acts 2:38](#); [Mk.16:16](#); [Acts 22:16](#); [1Pet.3:21](#))

God’s counsel for salvation is clear and consistent.

Will we follow it — or modify it?

Salvation is not the end of the matter — it is...

B. The Beginning of a Life that Leads to Eternity

The counsel we follow today, will determine where we stand tomorrow.

- The Bible says, “...the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves, shall hear His voice, ²⁹ and shall come forth; they that have **Done Good**, unto the resurrection of Life; and they that have **Done Evil**, unto the resurrection of Damnation.” ([Jn.5:28-29](#))

Explanation:

- Obedience now, determines eternity later.

Even a cautious Pharisee, once acknowledged a truth, that still stands.

When men were trying to decide what to do about the apostles, Gamaliel (guh-MAY-lee-uhl) spoke these words:

- “...if this counsel or this work, **be of men**, it will come to nought: But if it **be of God**, ye cannot overthrow it...” ([Acts 5:38-39](#))

Explanation:

- The counsel of men collapses.
- The counsel of God stands forever.

Every decision is shaped, by whose counsel we trust.

V. Closing Thoughts

The counsel Rehoboam chose, resulted in losing a kingdom. ([1Kngs.12:19](#)).

The counsel Eve chose, resulted in losing the garden of Eden and so much more. ([Gen.3:7-24](#); [Rom.5:12,19](#)).

The Bible says,

- “**whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning,**” ([Rom.15:4](#)),

So, don't ever forget:

- “**The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever,
the thoughts of His heart, to all generations.**” ([Psa.33:11](#))

Even though Jesus Christ is the Wonderful Counselor ([Isa.9:6](#)),

The Pharisees rejected salvation ([Lk.7:29-30](#)).

The question remains:

- “***Whose counsel will we follow?***”

The counsel of men fades.

The counsel of the LORD stands forever.

The question is not whether God has spoken — He has.

The question is whether, we will listen.

If you have not obeyed the gospel according to His counsel, why delay?

- The Lord still invites.
- The truth still stands.
- Eternity is still ahead.