

Moments of Inspiration

The Company We Keep

By Nicole Atherley

Scripture focus: Proverbs 1: 10-18

We have all heard the proverb 'Birds of a feather flock together'. People of like mind and character forming friendships and alliances can be a good thing. However, when someone recites this saying, they tend to have a negative connotation. Be careful of the company you keep.

The Book of Proverbs is filled with sound advice from a father to his son. These words of knowledge are very applicable to people in the present day, regardless of age and standing. In the passage of focus, the son is cautioned not to find himself associated with bad company. Bad company may encourage you in behaviour which may line your pockets with money and make all your supposed dreams come true - money, fame, power. All this may come about by stepping on some toes and

hurting some innocent people along the way. In the eyes of bad companions gaining money,

fame and power justifies sinful behaviour. "Come with us, let us lay wait for blood....We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil," they say (v 11 & 13).

But this is a lie. We are to be wary of persons that encourage us to sin. The son is cautioned that the end that awaits such people is one of death and destruction. To be greedy of gain at the expense of the innocent does not tend to a happy and fulfilled life. Rather, aligning with wise and Godly teaching does. The father gave his son sound advice. May we all accept and live by wise teaching.

Reflection:

Whose counsel do you listen to? Is that counsel and advice based on the word and teachings of God? Is earthly gain at the top of your priority list? What steps can you take to change that way of thinking?