



Today's Message

Date: November 23, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Bad Company and Easy Money***

Text: Proverbs 1:8–19 (ESV)

⁸ Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
⁹ for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck.
¹⁰ My son, if sinners entice you,
do not consent.
¹¹ If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood;
let us ambush the innocent without reason;
¹² like Sheol let us swallow them alive,
and whole, like those who go down to the pit;
¹³ we shall find all precious goods,
we shall fill our houses with plunder;
¹⁴ throw in your lot among us;
we will all have one purse"—
¹⁵ my son, do not walk in the way with them;
hold back your foot from their paths,
¹⁶ for their feet run to evil,
and they make haste to shed blood.
¹⁷ For in vain is a net spread
in the sight of any bird,
¹⁸ but these men lie in wait for their own blood;
they set an ambush for their own lives.
¹⁹ Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain;
it takes away the life of its possessors.

Introduction: The prologue of Proverbs (1:8-9:18) contains a series of lessons taught from father to son. It begins in a surprising way because first lesson warns the son against joining a violent gang.

I. Introduction: *Listen* to godly parents. 8-9

- A. Appeal: Listen because they give true wisdom. 8
- B. Promise: Listen and you will be rewarded. 9

II. Lesson: *Don't listen* to those who entice you to join a gang. 10-18

- A. Bad company will entice you. 10a; 11-14
 - 1. They will encourage you to delight in lawlessness. 11-12
 - 2. They will promise you easy money. 13-14
- B. Don't go with them! 10b; 15-18
 - 1. Don't set foot on their evil path. 15-16
 - 2. It is a path that ends in ruin. 17-18

III. Moral: The life of anyone who follows bad company and lives for easy money will suffer great loss. 19

- A. Solomon's lesson has broad application. 19a
- B. Solomon's warning is serious, indeed. 19b

Today's take-home truth: "Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that will he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

Questions we need to ask:

- 1. Parents: What kind of counsel do we give our children?
- 2. Children (and others): Who has our ear?
- 3. All: What do we value more:
 - Acceptance by God or others?
 - Godly submission or personal freedom?
 - Spiritual blessing or money?