

# *Life Lessons*

## *A Walk with the Wise*

Solomon wrote: “***He that walks with wise men shall be wise***” (Prov. 13:20). Over the course of the next several weeks we will give this portion of the Messenger to a series of essential *Life Lessons* that can be learned by taking time to walk a brief distance with the wise heroes of the faith from years gone by.

**Samuel Rutherford** – one of Scotland’s greatest preachers – lived from 1600 to 1661 and yet some of his words could have as easily been spoken during the turbulent 60’s or the even more trying times of today.

In writing to his friend William Gordon, Rutherford said, “***I must first tell you that there is not such a glassy, icy, and slippery piece of way betwixt you and heaven, as Youth.***” He later added, “***The old ashes of the sins of my youth are new fire of sorrow to me.***”

Why is that season of life that stands between childhood and adulthood so marked by the ominous warnings signs of the skull and crossbones? No season in life is so shaped by passion, influenced by peers, and occasionally free of parental control as those teenage years. As teenagers we have all the “hardware” to make adult decisions but we haven’t had time to load the “software” of wisdom, judgment, and experience. Adolescence is that one unique season of time in which we fear nothing and can handle everything. And what’s to worry... underlying most of our superhuman confidence is the unspoken assumption, “***if all fails I can still call home!***” Yet, talk to anyone over thirty and they are likely to have as many, “***I can’t believe I did that***” stories as they have fast food meals in the course of the average year!

So what are the *Life Lessons* a walk with Rutherford can teach us.

- Be careful what you do today for tomorrow you will have to live with it.

- At no time are you at greater danger than the moment you think, “I can handle this.”
- You’re not the first, and you won’t be the last to smear your smile on the slippery slopes of life. So, be quick to take a hand up when it is offered, and be even quicker to offer a hand up to the one just behind you.