

PEANUTS, AND SOUND THEOLOGY

Dr. Charles Swindoll is an evangelical Christian pastor, author, radio preacher and chancellor of the Dallas Theological Seminary. His radio program, *Insight for Living*, is carried on more than 2,000 stations around the world.

In his book about the life of Job, Swindoll addresses Job's reaction to his wife's plea to "curse God and die." Rather than saying, "Great idea!" Job had a very different response:

"You're talking like an empty-headed fool. We take the good days from God – why not the bad days!" (Job 2:10 MSG)

"It is a sign of maturity that Job, after suffering such a barrage of cataclysmic events, would be thinking so clearly, so correctly, without wavering," Swindoll said. "No uncertainty. The man did not entertain her suggestion for a moment. How did Job do it? He was grounded in his knowledge of God. In times like that, sound theology is invaluable."

Swindoll then recalled a famous *Peanuts* cartoon. "Linus with his blanket is standing at the picture window in the family room. Standing beside him is Lucy, who, of course is in charge. They're watching it rain, and it is coming down in sheets. They can hardly see the trees in the backyard. Lucy sighs, 'My, look at all that rain. If this keeps up, it's going to flood the whole earth.'

"Linus quickly replied, 'That will never happen! It says in Genesis 9:6-17 that God will never again flood the earth. And He's put a rainbow in the sky to prove that His promise is true.' Lucy looks at him and says, 'You've taken a big load off my mind.' Linus responds immediately, 'Sound theology has a way of doing that.'"



Swindoll concludes: "When things turn from bad to worse, sound theology helps us remain strong and stable."

The pastor is absolutely right. But how do we develop sound theology?

A number of ways: Regular worship in the church of one's choice; personal Bible reading; attendance in Sabbath or Sunday school classes; or Bible study with family or friends.

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it (Titus 1:9 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter