

Wisdom Teaching

Since you have died with Christ (Colossians 2:20)

Since you have been raised up with Christ (Colossians 3:1)

—Let the peace of Christ umpire in your hearts (Colossians 3:15)

—Always being Thankful (Colossians 3:15)

—Let the Word of Christ dwell in you (Colossians 3:16).

The believer ‘lets the peace of Christ umpire his heart’ when he is filled by the Holy Spirit by faith.

The believer gives thanks in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit.

The believer ‘lets’ the Word of Christ dwell in him/her when they are in the Filling of the Holy Spirit by faith.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

With all wisdom teaching responsibility of the pastor-teacher.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

With all wisdom

Study of Wisdom in the Word of God

I. What is Wisdom?

A. Simply stated: wisdom is skill in any endeavor.

B. “Skill in all the affairs of life” The Complete WordStudy Dictionary of the New Testament. Wise planning and the selection of the best means for achievement using sound judgment and good sense.

C. Skill in the moral decisions in life—making the ‘right’ moral decisions.

D. Skill in the spiritual decisions made in life.

II. Where can Wisdom be found?

A. Let’s start with the understanding that there are **two categories of wisdom** in the world. These categories are determined by their source. There is the

(1) The Wisdom of the World and

(2) The Wisdom of God

(3) The Wisdom of God compared to wisdom of the world:

James 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

This wisdom of jealousy and selfish ambition.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

is not that which comes down from above, Divine Wisdom—the subject of our study; now note three things about wisdom that is not from God

but is

1. **earthly**, related to the earth
2. **natural**, from the flesh nature of man therefore understood by man
3. **demonic**. From Satan to counter the Wisdom of God. By the way, do not miss that human wisdom is earthly, now we can understand.

Colossians 3:1 Therefore since you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Back to James

James 3:16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

Now we can understand what is going on in the world today. It first rejected the wisdom of God.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

But in contrast to the wisdom of this world.

the wisdom from above our study, and our desire is:

1. **first pure, then**
 2. **peaceable**, in our souls and in our human relations
 3. **gentle**,
 4. **reasonable**, in harmony with all creation by Jesus Christ
 5. **full of mercy and**
 6. **good fruits**, in our lives
 7. **unwavering**,
 8. **without hypocrisy**. Because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.
- (4) As to the two categories of wisdom, the Bible tells us God's view of human wisdom:

1 Corinthians 1:19 For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.'

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

1 Corinthians 1:20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (so do not waste your time on the wisdom of the world.)

1 Corinthians 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to know God*, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (Wisdom of man rejects the wisdom of God.)

1 Corinthians 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, “*He is THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS*”;

- (5) The higher human wisdom of the ancient Greek philosophers was intended by Satan to draw away the minds of men from divine wisdom. It was designed to counter the simplicity of the Gospel and the person and work of Jesus Christ on the Cross. It was intended to give man a way of living counter to that designed by God. As God used various people—writers of Holy Scripture to convey divine wisdom, Satan also used his disciples: Aristotle, Thales of Miletus, Pythagoras and others. All designed to counter the wisdom from above, Divine

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

wisdom. This wisdom is called fleshly or related to the flesh nature by God. 2 Cor. 1:12 or wisdom of the world 1 Cor. 1:20ff.

B. Let's start with one of the most profound questions in the Bible. The question is found in the first book God gave to us. That question is where can wisdom be found? It is asked by Job in

**Job 28:12 “But where can wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?”**

This is the treasure that every sound thinking person should desire—wisdom...understanding! One of the proofs of the decadence of America is that most people desire wealth—not wisdom—most people go to college seeking knowledge that will convert to wealth. Few in this country, indeed in the world seek wisdom. But here, this wise Job asks the profound question, where can wisdom be found?

C. Let's start with the answer with where not to waste our time in this search: no other living creature possesses this knowledge:

**Job 28:21 “Thus it is hidden from the eyes of
all living (There is no living creature on earth has
this wisdom). And concealed from the birds of
the sky. (Referring to angels.)**

So, no living creature on earth or above earth possesses this wisdom. It is not to found in mankind. Not in Aristotle, Buddha, Confucius. Mohammad.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

Job 28:20 “Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?”

D. True Wisdom can be found in God alone.

The Sovereign, Omnipotent, Omniscient God, that is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God the Holy Bible is the creator and only source of true Wisdom. And He alone reveals this wisdom:

Proverbs 8:22 “The LORD possessed me (wisdom) at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

Proverbs 8:23 “From everlasting I (wisdom) was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.

Proverbs 8:24 “When there were no depths I (wisdom) was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.

Proverbs 8:25 “Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I (wisdom) was brought forth;

Proverbs 8:26 While He (the Son of God) had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

Proverbs 8:27 “When He (Jesus Christ) established the heavens, I (wisdom) was there, When He (Jesus Christ) inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,

Proverbs 8:28 When He (Jesus Christ) made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,

Proverbs 8:29 When He (Jesus Christ) set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;

Proverbs 8:30 Then I (wisdom) was beside Him, as a master workman; And I (wisdom) was daily *His* delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

Proverbs 8:31 Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And *having* my delight in the sons of men. (creation of angels)

Daniel 2:20 Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

Daniel 2:21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.

God’s economy: the rich get richer—the one who is wise, turns to God and asks God. God freely gives wisdom.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

III. Wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

Job 28:28 “And to man He said, ‘Behold, (listen up, pay close attention) the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;...

The Hebrew word for *fear* ‘*yir’ah*.’ This is a positive in life, not a negative one. We are not to walk around in ‘fear’ all day long. In fact, one of the most informative passages is

Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.” Do not be afraid....fear of Him

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

What is going on here? Sounds like ‘double talk’. And it is as if we do not correctly understand what is being said. Both occurrences of the word translated ‘fear’ can mean almost the same thing. **Fear not** means do not go around living in fear that God is going to ‘get you’ but do be in fear of His Righteous indignation if you sin. Unfortunately, not many children are reared with a correct understanding of this verse. I knew my mother loved me...cared for me...but I also knew to fear her if I disobeyed her. And so it is with God. We are not to live in fear of God, afraid of Him but we are to be afraid of sinning against Him. This is the correct teaching in regard to the police. We are not to live in fear of them, ‘freak out’ every time we see a policeman, but we should be in fear if we have disobeyed the law. Many parents teach their children to ‘fear’ the police—all the time, which is most unfortunate.

Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, (not beat you) and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

We should fear His Righteous wrath when we sin, but have maximum awe of Him throughout our lives.

Now back to

Job 28:28 “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, (maximum respect, maximum reverence,) that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.’ ”

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

An in-depth study would take us back to the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil. To depart, that is to refrain from evil, is understanding. This of course demands that one knows from truth what evil is, then to refrain from it. Simply stated, anything that counters, goes against God's divine order, is evil. Whether it is physical evil or moral evil or spiritual evil, it goes against God's design and God's will...with the greatest of these being to present a false gospel. There is a multitude of preachers who would not even think of committing certain sins, but they stand up at the pulpit and proclaim a lie on how to be saved, beckoning people to do some acts of works—overt—like rituals or mental like repentance or confession to be saved and have the depth of evil to actually say that God does not want your faith, he desires your works.

So here at the beginning of our study on wisdom, we are told what wisdom is, where it begins: **the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom**
Let's add to this verse,

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever.

The Hebrew words for *fear* and *wisdom* are the same Hebrew words in Job 28:28. What is different is the Hebrew words translated 'Lord' in both passages (Job 28:28 and Psa. 111:10). In Psalms 111:10 is the proper name of God: YHWH. While in Job 28:28 the Hebrew *Adonai* is used. This word is used exclusively of God. This designation refers to the supreme authority and power of God. Either way, the maximum respect,

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

and reverence and yes, fear of Him is the beginning of wisdom. Here is added that this is the *beginning of wisdom*. All other thinking that follows after a reverence of Lord, for example respect of His divine order in respect of the male and female bodies is wisdom. It is almost humorous how foolish so many have become in our society today. Not only do they approve and encourage homosexuality and lesbianism but now they encourage girls to think they are boys and boys to think they are girls. Principle: Once you depart from God's designed order of things, there is no limit to how foolish and absurd you will become. "To depart from evil is understanding."

IV. Fallen man does not know the value of Wisdom.

And as to the state that man is in after the fall and imputation of Adam's Original Sin to our Inherited Sin Nature, Job describes man's ignorance of wisdom.

**Job 28:12 "But where can wisdom be found?
And where is the place of understanding?"**

Job 28:13 "Man (flesh nature of man) does not know its value, (man does not know the value of wisdom or of understanding.) Nor is it found in the land of the living.

Job 28:14 “The deep says, ‘It is not in me’; And the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ (We have studied from Genesis 1:2 that the deep and the sea is the place where God cast all the fallen demons.)

Job 28:15 “Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price. (We see this when man tries to buy the power of the gospel.)

Job 28:16 “It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx, or sapphire.

Job 28:17 “Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold.

Job 28:18 “Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is above *that of* pearls.

Job 28:19 “The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold.

Job 28:20 “Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?

Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16

Job 28:21 “Thus it is hidden from the eyes of all living And concealed from the birds of the sky.

Job 28:22 “Abaddon and Death say, ‘With our ears we have heard a report of it.’

V. Wisdom is Free—by grace through faith.

Since it cannot be found anywhere on this planet or universe, and all the wealth on earth will not buy it, then where is it to be found? Let’s start our answer with this--Wisdom is free!!! Like eternal life, it is free, like the Filling of the Holy Spirit—it is free—all are secured by grace through faith alone.

VI. All things were created by the wisdom of God.

Psalms 104:24 O LORD, how many are Your works! (The countless works of His creation) In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

Why is this so important in our study? To deny creation is to deny the wisdom of God. To condone perversions of male and female is to reject the wisdom of God. ‘God you are not wise, we know that a man’s body is designed for a man and a woman’s body is designed for a woman...we are wise! Therefore, **Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,** And dear people, this holds true in all categories of evil. Remember that evil is a rejection of divine order in the design of creation. So, whether we are talking of spiritual issues, like the gospel or

**Wisdom Teaching
Colossians 3:16**

moral wisdom or academic wisdom or political issues or any and all categories of decisions that we have to make throughout the day, God has a plan, a will, a design for all His creation according to His Wisdom. This is why it is so important that we know that God created this and all universes and He created this world and the design of this world.

Jeremiah 10:12 *It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.*

And this is why Satan must get man to believe in evolution, that is without design and purpose.