

Wisdom Teaching (Part 2)

Last week we started a study on wisdom. This week, we will start by reviewing the first six points and then continue with point VII.

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 richly 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.

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With all wisdom teaching responsibility of the pastor-teacher.

With all wisdom

Study of Wisdom in the Word of God

I. What is Wisdom?

A. Simply stated: wisdom is the 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.

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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.

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 that has this wisdom). **And concealed from the birds of the sky.** (Referring to angels.)

D. True Wisdom can be found in God alone.

III. Wisdom is the fear of the Lord.

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

V. Wisdom is Free—by grace through faith.

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

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VII. Wisdom is found in Jesus Christ.

Col. 2:3 in whom (Jesus Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

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

And since wisdom is found only in Jesus Christ, we have our passage in **Colossians 3:16 The Word of Christ, let dwell, richly in you.** When you study, learn about Jesus Christ, you are acquiring wisdom to live by.

And therefore, Peter exhorts:

2 Peter 3:18 but grow (grow spiritually all through your life) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

We learned from James 3:15 that true wisdom comes down from above. And in John chapter 1, we learn that Jesus Christ came down from above—to bring us wisdom—salvation.

John 1:9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. (wisdom)

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John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

and

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And then we have the all-important two verses relating wisdom as found in Jesus Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

then in verse 30

1 Corinthians 1:30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, (one of the most wonderful of the 34 things God does to us when we believe in Jesus Christ as Savior) who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

Wisdom is given to the incarnate Christ to live a perfect sinless life and go to the cross for all mankind, but there is even a richer wisdom given to Christ in His Resurrected Body in Glory.

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Revelation 5:12 (heavenly host) **saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”**

VIII. Wisdom is learned only through or by the Holy Spirit.

1. The humanity of Jesus Christ was dependent upon the Holy Spirit by faith to give Him wisdom.

Isaiah 11:1 **Then a shoot (Jesus Christ) will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.** (Incarnation of Jesus Christ)

Isaiah 11:2 **The Spirit** (the Holy Spirit) **of the Lord** (God the Father) **will rest on Him** (Jesus Christ. Next are listed the ministry of the Holy Spirit on Jesus Christ and on any believer who trusts in Him) **The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.** (And yes, the Hebrew words for wisdom and fear are the same Hebrew words used in Job 28:28)

Isaiah 11:3 **And He** (Jesus Christ) **will delight** (future, referring to the life of Jesus Christ on

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earth) **in the fear of the LORD**, (He will delight --- This is the Hiphil and should be translated “he will be caused to delight) ***He will be caused by the wisdom from the Holy Spirit to delight in the fear of the Lord*** (that is God the Father, the Hebrew word means that He will be relieved of any and all anxiety of being identified with the sins of the world, knowing that this is the will of His Father.) **And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;** (the next verse tells us He will judge by His righteousness.)

This prophecy of Isaiah 11 is confirmed in

Luke 2:40 The Child (humanity of Jesus Christ) **continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.**

Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (given to Him by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 11:2))

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2. It has always been the Plan of God that man should receive wisdom from the Holy Spirit. That His wisdom does not just dwell in man, nor does it come out from the depraved flesh nature of man.

Exodus 31:3 “I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship,

3. One of the most important chapters on Wisdom is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 2. Anyone who goes into this chapter must bear in mind the first principle of hermeneutics: context.

First: note verses 4 and 5

1 Corinthians 2:4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and even of power, (that is in demonstration of the Power of the Holy Spirit)

1 Corinthians 2:5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (that is your faith would be in the power of God, that is, the Holy Spirit to understand his message of the gospel.)

Secondly: As to context, the word *wisdom* occurs nine times in just the 16 verses of 1 Corinthians chapter 2. The context continues from chapter 1 where the word wisdom occurs 7 times in verses 19- 30. So, in just 27

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verses, the word wisdom occurs 16 times. This passage (1 Cor. 1:19-2:16) is about the wisdom of God.

Third: Verse 10 makes it clear that we receive all that God has prepared for those who love Him. This includes the wisdom of God.

1 Cor. 2:9 but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:10 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

This verse explains

Eph. 1:8 which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight (by means of the Holy Spirit)

Back to

1 Corinthians 2:11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

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1 Corinthians 2:12 Now (here is the remarkable grace of God) -- **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,** (that is we have received the Holy Spirit) so that we may know the things freely given (by grace through faith) **to us by God,**

1 Corinthians 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those (words of wisdom) taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.

1 Corinthians 2:14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

1 Corinthians 2:15 But he who is spiritual (the Filling of the Holy Spirit by grace through faith) appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**

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- (1) The Holy Spirit is spoken of six times in these closing 7 verses of chapter 2, so context tells us the Holy Spirit that we have, is the mind of Christ.
- (2) It is the Holy Spirit who searches all things even the depths of God. So, theologically, it is the Holy Spirit who both knows and teaches the depths of God, of Christ.
- (3) We have received at salvation the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we might know all the things freely—graciously given to us by God.
- (4) Who knows the mind of the Lord, that He may teach us? God the Holy Spirit.
- (5) The Old Testament passage quoted refers to God the Holy Spirit.

But we have the mind of Christ. That is, we have the Holy Spirit so therefore when we open the Word of God we must depend on the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the wisdom of Christ.

IX. Salvation by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone is wisdom.

2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

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One of the reasons that many refuse to simply believe in Jesus Christ as Savior is that this goes against the wisdom of the flesh, which says that I must work for salvation, I must do or say or think something so that God will save me. This is why to become a believer in Jesus Christ we must start with humility! Faith demands humility and the flesh nature of man is arrogant.

Therefore, it is wise to have wisdom to witness for Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 4:6 “So keep and do *them*, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”

Don't be discouraged in your witness for Christ, for there are those who when they hear the Gospel by grace through faith will rejoice at the hearing.

X. We are to be taught Wisdom from above.

This wisdom is not inherent in any member of the human race. We are to be taught wisdom. Fundamental to this wisdom is relating everything to our relationship with God! Making judgments: about people, about right and wrong etc. requires wisdom, 1 Kings 2:9. Marriage: whom we marry and how we relate to each other is dependent on our relationship with Jesus Christ. Work, and how we conduct ourselves at work; social, moral decisions are based on how they affect our relationship with God. Wisdom in civil matters—politics, elections etc. Wisdom is not simply being successful in life according to human standards, wisdom is being

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in harmony with God and His designs. Wisdom is the art of living on earth in a corrupt body, yet living in harmony with our relationship with God, with Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit.

(1) We must desire to possess this wisdom.

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

(2) It cannot be bought by earthly wealth.

Job 28:15 “Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price.”

Proverbs 8:11 “For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.”

(3) We must be quiet, and listen and learn wisdom.

In the book of Job, Elihu, "*God is he,*" beckons Job to learn wisdom.

Job 33:33 “If not, listen to me; Keep silent, and I will teach you wisdom.”

(4) This means you must search out and find a pastor-teacher who teaches wisdom from above. The principle is stated in

Psalms 37:30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice.

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**Psa. 90:12 So teach us to number our days,
That we may present to You a heart of
wisdom.**

Dear fellow believers, we have to make decisions every day. Of course some are more important than others...like, what to do after high school graduation, where to go to college or join the military, etc. Then of course, wisdom is absolutely required in getting married. Where to go to church and learn the Word of God; where to work, how to handle money and then of course we all ask for wisdom from above (James 3) when confronted with all the decisions that come along in life—illness, health, social etc.

(5) The book of Proverbs is saturated with sound teaching on wisdom from above.

**Proverbs 2:2 Make your ear attentive to
wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding;**

We have to make a deliberate decision to sit and learn wisdom from a pastor-teacher who studies and teaches wisdom from above.

**Proverbs 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom;
From His mouth *come* knowledge and
understanding.**

This should be grasped along with

**James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let
him ask of God, who gives to all generously**

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and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

This should be a vital part of our prayer life—*always giving thanks for everything and asking for wisdom* in respect to decisions we have to make.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, (seeking His wisdom) And He will make your paths straight. (In harmony with His Plan and will for you.)

Prov. 3:13 How blessed is the man who finds wisdom And the man who gains understanding. (Don't seek things of this earth but seek things from above—this is a blessed life.)

Proverbs 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.

It is wisdom to know what is really important in life:

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Proverbs 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.

We know that suicides are on the increase in this country, among the young teenagers, older people etc. well, look at

Proverbs 19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

No matter what is happening in life, if you are living according to the wisdom from above you will love your own life in Christ.

Prov. 24:14 Know *that* wisdom is thus for your soul; If you find *it*, then there will be a future, And your hope will not be cut off.

One reason people commit suicide is they have no hope about their lives...wisdom from above gives hope and direction.

(6) God has designed the pastor-teacher in the Church Age to make known the wisdom of God.

Ephesians 3:10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly *places*.

The context is the gift of pastor-teacher, the communication of the Word of God.

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- (7) Knowing the will of God for your life requires the knowledge of the Word of God.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

- (8) The requirement of a pastor-teacher that you should look for:

Colossians 1:28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Every male who thinks he has the gift of pastor-teacher should spend serious time understanding the responsibility that being a teacher of the Word of God demands.

- (9) How we are to live daily as Christians demands knowledge of the wisdom of God.

Colossians 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. (To present to them the gospel of Jesus Christ).

Colossians 3:16 The Word of Christ let dwell richly in you with all wisdom....

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It is up to you dear believer, to receive the true Wisdom of God, from above by taking in His Word under the power and leading of the Holy Spirit. Then under the leading of the Holy Spirit making wise decisions every day.

Is it wise not to pray?

Is it wise not to give thanks for everything?

Is it wise not to go to the assembly when the Word of God is being taught?

Is it wise not to put on the whole armor of God?

Is it wise to mal-treat your husband or wife?

Is it wise to marry this person or that person?

Is it wise to have children?

Is it wise to be poor stewards of money God gives you?

Do you ever reach a point (even in old age) where you no longer need to acquire wisdom from the Word of God?

Are you a wise Christian? And does your wisdom reveal itself in loving as Jesus Christ loves you?

**Colossians 3:16 The Word of Christ let dwell
richly in you with all wisdom...**