

In All Wisdom

Some of the best words in the Bible are in Proverbs 3:5-6.

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.**

This begins with faith, then prevents any thinking of your own; then you rely on your faith in the Holy Spirit;

And He will give you decisions to make you straight in life.

You have to make decisions on your education, on your moral decisions and on your daily decisions you make every day through your life. Parents should teach their children to pick their friends; not to be picked, but to choose their friends. Teach them to make decisions about their physical lives and of course making going to church part of their lives and very careful about the church they go to in the study of the word of God and worshipping Christ. The world is changing and therefore young people have to make a choice to turn to Jesus or not.

Few pastors study the Bible word by word. Many pastors open one passage this week, then something entirely different next Sunday. Why? Because most people do not want to study the Bible. Most pastors do not want to study one book of the Bible. And most people do not want to study the Bible.

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Most pastors desire to please people rather than to lose people by the study of the Bible.

My friends, Ephesians 1:1-3 is centered on knowing the Word of God. We have to know and understand the Word of God.

We are in the midst of some of the most wonderful study in the Bible and we are just in the first chapter of Ephesians.

Think of some of these wonderful things we are studying and I pray that as we go through these you understand these truths in your spiritual life.

1. Chosen Before the Foundation of the world. (Verse 4)
2. Holy and Blameless (Verse 4)
Please think about who you are, every day. You are holy and blessed before God.
3. In His Love—not because you earn His love but because He has given you unconditional love. (Verse 4)
4. Predestined to Adoption. (Verse 5)
Oh, people, God has Predestined you in His Son.
5. You are already Accepted in the Beloved (Verse 6)
This has nothing to do with your abilities in this life. You are beloved of Him everyday in your life.
6. Redemption through His Blood. (Verse 7)
You were born a slave to sin and eternal death. The price of your freedom was the precious spiritual death of Jesus Christ.
7. Forgiveness of Sins (Verse 7)
This is one of the most wonderful blessings that we receive from

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Jesus Christ. We do not earn nor deserve the forgiveness of sins. This is received by His mercy by the cross work of Jesus Christ.

There is so much to learn from these seven blessings we have from God.

Verse 7. In Him, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. This refers to riches or wealth—according to the wealth or abundance of His grace. We are in verse 7 and we have already seen the word grace referred to three times. Verse 2—grace to you and then in verse 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, then the redemption we have been given to the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace.

I hope that every day you thank God for His grace. Under His grace, the whole character of God, His Power and His integrity, and His faithfulness are all given under His Grace! Not because we earn or deserve any blessing from God but because of His grace.

The wealth of His grace is the source of the cancellation of our sins at the cross. Every blessing we receive from Salvation on, is from the grace of God. Everything we receive from God depends on who and what God is and His Grace. God the Father planned it; God the Son executed it and God the Holy Spirit reveals it. There is no place for man to do anything. All this is for us by faith alone in Jesus Christ. Faith is a non-meritorious function of our souls.

The subject of faith has no merit, the object has all the merit! Our Savior provided everything we needed for salvation in time and eternity.

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“In Him we have redemption through His Blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” (Verse 7)

Amen! But, God plans even more for us.

Verse 8—which He (gives to us in) abundance in all, ‘wholeness’ of wisdom and understanding,

I love this word. It means more than enough! Many people think of having more money, but Oh people to think that God gives more than enough of His Grace! To be more than enough, to have an abundance, to be superior or to excel! Here with Paul in Ephesians this is the riches of God’s grace, the giving of redemption and forgiveness which He has lavished upon believers. And now God is going to open up on the mystery of the greatness, even greater than through the Old Testament. Look at

2 Corinthians 3:9 For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory.

Ephesians 1:8 which He lavished (or gives abundance) to us! ...

Oh, people as we spend the time in Ephesians, we will come upon the abundance to us in the Church Age.

Study of Wisdom in the Word of God.

Do you understand the Wisdom of God?

I. What is Wisdom?

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

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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:

- (1) The Wisdom of the World.
- (2) The Wisdom of God.

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 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

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(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.

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 from our study and our desire is:

1. First pure, then
2. Peaceable, in our souls and in our human relations
3. Gentle,

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4. Reasonable, in harmony with all creation by Jesus Christ
5. Full of mercy and
6. Good fruits,
7. Unwavering,
- 8 Without hypocrisy.

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.'

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.

The wisdom of man rejects the wisdom of God.

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;”

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. This wisdom is called fleshly or related to the flesh nature by God. 2 Corinthians 1:12 or wisdom of the world 1 Corinthians 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 true wisdom. But here, this wise Job asks the profound question, where can wisdom be found?

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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.

Only by God Himself.