



THE GOD WHO IS WISE

Job 28:12-28 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

Job 12:13-16 | James 1:5 + 3:13-17 | 1 Corinthians 2:6-14

SUMMARY

There is much wisdom in this world. **Does this surprise us?** We humans bear this mark of our Creator in all things from our everyday problem solving to our complex arithmetic. And yet, all of it, all of our wisdom also bears the mark of our calamitous Fall. Our thoughts and plans are a muddled mix, part God-honoring and always part self-aggrandizing. Proverbs 14:12 tells us that “there is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” Such is our wisdom! Limited, blurry, and tending to turn deadly on us. **So how do you become wise?**

First we must recognize that only God is truly wise, humble ourselves before him, and pursue knowing him on his (not our own) terms.

Second, as Jim Packer notes, “In Scripture, wisdom is a moral as well as an intellectual quality, more than mere intelligence or knowledge, just as it is more than mere cleverness or cunning. For us to be truly wise, in the Bible sense, our intelligence and cleverness must be harnessed to a right end. Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.”

Yet, too often Christians tend to discount the unique insights found within their cultures as being “worldly” and unfit for Christian consumption. While at the same time other Christians have uncritically imbibed the so-called wisdom of their cultures.

What’s a Christian to do? How do we live wisely in such a world? As Brent said today, “Wisdom is the God given gift expressed through practical application of knowledge, good judgment, insight, and experience as **motivated by** God’s purposes and plans which leads to righteous living” **So here are a few practical applications:**

Here’s one suggestion: Eat the meat; spit out the bones. This seems to be what the Apostle Paul is suggesting in Philippians 4:8-9: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things...”

Here’s a second suggestion, and one that will help you discern what is “true, honorable, just...”: Accept that you are finite and foolish, ask God to help you distinguish between his wisdom and your own. Which is another way of saying that wisdom’s path begins with “the fear of the Lord and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Pr. 9:10).

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of Job 28:12-28, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about the God's wisdom.
- James 3:13-17 tells us that God empowers us to understand His plans and put them in action. Why do you suppose, in all our foolishness, God lets us in on his plans?
- God tells us in 1 Corinthians 2:6-14 that God teaches us wisdom and enables Christians to have the "mind of Christ." How is the Spirit helping you right now to have "the mind of Christ" rather than "the mind of (fill your name in here)"?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?