

- **\*Read Proverbs 2:1-11/Prayer\*** As we recognize from **Proverbs 1:1-6**, the whole reason for Solomon pinning the Proverbs is for the person who seeks wisdom to be able to find it. Surely, we would all agree that the pursuit of wisdom is a good thing. It is a good thing to search for the **"ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting."** Wisdom gives us the ability to know what is true and real in this life and what truly matters. Solomon seems to think that wisdom is valuable because, in our Text, he equates the search for wisdom with the search for silver or other hidden treasures. It must be impressed upon us that wisdom is extremely valuable, and we would do well to give great efforts to obtain it.
- So where would we go to find wisdom? There are many who claim to possess wisdom, but where does wisdom truly come from? I think it would make sense for us to give effort to weed through the false wisdom that is all around us and look for that which is legitimate wisdom. Just as true wisdom can benefit us greatly, we must likewise admit that false wisdom can get us into a lot of trouble. The search for wisdom is serious business, and I want us to give our time this morning to finding the true source of wisdom that can help us to discern and judge what is true, right, or lasting in this life.

### **I. We often search for true wisdom in all the wrong places.**

#### **A. "wisdom" that agrees with us**

1. It can be very tempting to hear something and label it as being wise simply because it agrees with what I already believe to be true and right. Those who were spoken of in **II Timothy 3 & 4** were guilty of bringing in and holding up those who sounded right simply because they agreed with them. **(II Timothy 4:3,4)**
2. In no place is this type of thing seen than in the current political climate. Far too often individuals deem everything their candidate says as being wise while everything their opponent says as being foolish. No matter what it is said, the only thing that judges whether it was wise or foolish is the person who says it and whether or not it agrees with their current ideas.

#### **B. "wisdom" in academia**

1. Paul, while himself a very intelligent man, often dealt with those of higher intelligence while on his journeys for the Gospel. One of his most noted stops is found in **Acts 17** when he interacts with the people of Athens. Greek culture was fascinated with knowledge, academia, philosophy and the like and the people of Athens were also very interested in religious things. However, even with all of their academic superiority to all those around them, they still did not know the God of heaven that they ought to have known. **(Acts 17:15ff)**
2. It can be easy for us to simply look to those who are the top of their respective field of academic study and automatically attribute wisdom to them. But we must keep in mind that academic knowledge does not automatically mean that someone is wise. Wisdom is most often displayed in action and not just intellect. No one would say that I am wise simply because I know that this is dangerous to do...yet I continue to do it. True wisdom is more than just knowing.

#### **C. "wisdom" that comes with age**

1. **Job 12:12** tells us that "Wisdom is with aged men, with long life is understanding." While it is generally true that older we are the more wisdom we will have the opportunity to gain...we must also keep in mind that just because we have lived many years doesn't mean that wisdom is a given.
2. How could it be that we live so long, but yet still not come to possess much wisdom? It might be that we just refused to listen to the wisdom that is often present with age. Just because we have been around the block in regards to years on this earth doesn't mean that we are one who is wise.

D. "wisdom" that comes with experience

1. Much along the same line as age, but not exactly the same is the idea that wisdom is gained purely through experiencing different things in this life. An author of a wordpress article I was reading on this idea says this, "You cannot fully understand people, thing events or even situations if you don't have life experience." This person and many others would hold strongly to this idea by saying that we can't know how do deal with things in this life unless we first experience them first. Going through it is the only way to gain wisdom.
2. This might sound well and good, but I don't think that the Bible would agree with this. In fact, we have the Scriptures for the purpose that we can look to see how others did things and that we might learn from their successes and failures without having to fail first ourselves. **(Romans 15:4)**

E. "wisdom" within the mind of man

1. All of this comes can be boiled down to the idea that the true source of wisdom is found within the mind of man. Any wisdom that can be found and obtained is contained within the mind of man, and this thought just grows as our culture continues to grow in its humanistic mindset.
2. However, there are a few individuals that recognize that true wisdom isn't sourced from man, but that is requires us to look beyond ourselves. Ursula M. Staudinger, the director for the Butler Aging Center at Columbia University, admits that "if we want to achieve the transcendence that comes with wisdom, we must look beyond ourselves." Now, she falls short by saying that this doesn't mean that we must believe in God, but at least she understands the fact that there is something beyond the mind of man. **(Isa. 55:8,9)**

**II. True wisdom comes from the mind of God who knows & understands all things within His creation.**

A. We all recognize that the creator of a particular things probably knows his creation better than anyone else.

1. Who do we say knows a child better than anyone else? Well obviously, we would say that the parents know them best because they are the one's who created and raised the child.
2. Who would we say knows more about Microsoft than anyone else? Well obviously, we would say Bill Gates since he founded the company.
3. Who knew Apple and its products better than Steve Jobs? No one, because it was a product of his mind.

B. Never is this principle more true than when we consider God and His wisdom concerning this life and the things involved within it.

1. This world that we live in. Everything that is contained within it. Everything that we see and everything that we don't see. Everything that we can touch, feel, taste, and smell and everything that we can't touch, feel, taste, or smell is a result of the never-ending power and might of the God of heaven. He not only created literally everything, but He did so simply with His words. **(Genesis 1)**
2. If we are willing to recognize that everything is a result of the mind of God, then doesn't it make sense that we would submit to the way He dictates that things ought to be done in this life? Who would we be to tell Bill Gates something that is wrong with his system? Who would we be to tell Steve Jobs how to run his Mac Book? Sure, there will be things that we won't see eye to eye with in regards to what God dictates, but that is logical because we are not on the same level as God! Again, He is so much higher than we are, so why wouldn't we just submit to His wisdom?

3. The main thing getting in our way of allowing God to stand in the place of the true source of wisdom is one simple thing and that is our pride. In our pride we stand before God and say that He is wrong because what He says doesn't jive with what we already think. In our pride and arrogance we say that God's thoughts are correct because the current academics say that something else is true. In our foolishness we say that simply because we have lives so many years or experience so many different things that we know more than what God says. We, as insignificant humans, are so naive to think that we know more about what is true, right, and lasting in this life than the mighty God of heaven who so many thousands of years ago spoke everything into existence.
4. Just as it is true that the fool says in his heart there is no God, certainly the fool is also the person who says that he knows more than God. Surely his end will be that which is spoken of in **Proverbs 16:18**, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling." We must acknowledge that God is the ultimate source of wisdom, but how is it that we can come to know that wisdom and use it for ourselves?

### **III. We possess the wisdom of God in the Scriptures that He has delivered to us.**

- A. The Bibles we all hold in our hands contains God's wisdom, it is a small portion of God's mind.
  1. No single writing could ever possibly contain the infinite mind of God, and there are some things that He has not revealed to us about this present reality (**Deut. 29:29**), but we can be confident that what He has given us is sufficient for us to make it through this life as He would have us to make it through.
  2. This book we do possess certainly is not a creation of man, but it is from the mind of God. (**II Tim. 3:16 & II Peter 1:20,21**) It is God's will for us to be successful and prosperous according to His will in this life, and He has not left on our own with insufficient means to wonder aimlessly through this life.
- B. This book of wisdom can help us to navigate this life so that we might make it through as well off as possible in a broken and wicked world.
  1. A small sample of the Word's purpose is given to use back in **Proverbs 1:1-6**, but the truth is that the whole of Scripture has been given to us so that we might know what is true, right, and lasting. The words of the Psalmist continue to ring true concerning God's Word, "The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting." God's eternal wisdom is found without this book we hold.
  2. While academia, age, experience, or other human factors might try to tell us that something contrary to God's Word is actually true and right...the reality is that God is always right. Plain and simple. God is right. His wisdom trumps our each and every time. No questions asked. The quicker we submit to His wisdom and way of doing things the better off will be. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." (**Prov. 9:10**)

How sad for us to waste so many years in this life spinning our wheels because we think that we or some other person has all the answers. We face all these different situations in this life. We suffer because of our own foolishness, yet we continue to try to do things our own way or the way that some other person tells us it ought to be done. Friends, it might not be what we want to hear as prideful creatures, but we don't have all the answers. Sure we have some amount of wisdom from different things in this life, but true wisdom...a complete wisdom of what is true, right, and lasting only comes from the God of heaven and His mind that is contained in the Word. May God help us to submit humbly to His mind of wisdom and may we quickly recognize the better way of letting the One who created this reality to tell us how we can make it through as best we can. May God be honored as we follow His wisdom in this life.