

WISDOM

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Sunday School – Oct. 3, 2021

A. SCRIPTURE

1. I Cor. 1:24; 30

- a. **Wisdom**: Noun – “sophia” pronounced – sof-ee’-ah, translated wisdom.
- b. Wisdom (Sophia) is used in 51 times in 49 verses in the New Testament.
- c. **Greatest Wisdom**: The Lord Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God, and He is the ultimate source of the wisdom of God. Also in Col. 2:1-3, (contrary to false teaching at Colosse), Christ is the incarnation of God (the mystery of God), and He possesses all the divine wisdom and knowledge and truth for our salvation. John 1:14; Rom. 11:33-36; I Cor. 2:6-8; Eph. 1:8-9; Eph. 3:8-9

NOTE: Wisdom (“sophia”) is used in the New Testament to describe:

- Wisdom is an attribute of God. Luke 11:49
- Wisdom is the revelation of God’s divine will to man. I Cor. 2:4-7
- Wisdom is a gift of God. Eph 1:17; James 1:5; James 3:17
- Wisdom is the spiritual knowledge & understanding of God’s will for man. Col. 1:9-11
- Wisdom is an essential element of a believer’s spiritual life and spiritual growth. Col. 1:28; James 3:13
- Earthly wisdom is contrasted with the wisdom from above. James 3:15
- Man’s knowledge or intellectual ability. Mat. 12:42
- Man’s prideful, worldly wisdom which leads to destruction. I Cor. 1:19-20

B. DEFINITION

1. Secular:

a. **Wisdom**: The quality or state of being wise; knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action; discernment or insight. Also wise sayings, acts, or teachings; precepts.

2. Spiritual:

Wisdom- The ability given to believers by God to apply spiritual knowledge and understanding in all aspects of living out their lives in a way that reflects God’s will, His character & attributes, and His love for the purpose of glorifying Him.

C. Principles:

- 1. God is the source of true wisdom. James 1:5**
- 2. Wisdom is found in, and learned from, God's Word through the power of the Spirit and through prayer! James 1:5; John 1:5; John 16:13-15**
- 3. Wisdom is a manner and means of spiritual living. This is how a believer lives – wisely; and the way he lives – with wisdom. Col. 3:16; James 3:15-17**
- 4. God's Wisdom is revealed (taught) to believers through the Holy Spirit. God's wisdom from His Word is spiritually discerned by believers through the power of the Spirit to enable us to know the will and mind of Christ. I Cor. 2:13-16**
- 5. Unbelievers cannot know God's wisdom, and it is foolishness to them. Men cannot be wise without God. I Cor. 2:14**
- 6. The believer as a wise man will demonstrate in his life works which are not marked by earthly wisdom that are full of sin and every evil work, but rather by the wisdom from above that produces righteous fruit which is marked by self-control, purity, peacefulness, gentleness (sweet reasonableness), teachableness, mercy, impartiality, commitment, faithfulness, and humility. James 3:13-18; Prov. 11:2**
- 7. Wisdom is closely related to the fruit of the Spirit and many other Christian virtues and attributes. The wise man's conduct, service, and life are to be distinguished by his reflection (imitation) of Christ's character through the power of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom looks and acts like Christ. James 3:13-18**
- 8. The fear (reverential awe, submissiveness, obedient admiration) of the Lord is the foundation for wisdom and spiritual wisdom. Prov. 1:7; Ps. 111:10**
- 9. Wisdom obeys God. Prov. 1:7; Ps. 111:10**
- 10. To be a reflection of Christ (and God the Father), we must know and understand what he has revealed in His Word. Ps. 119:97-105**

Summary: It is God's will that we be followers and imitators of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. We are to wear the character, attitudes, qualities, and virtues of Christ. We are to bear the fruit of the Spirit. As we serve and worship Him in obedience to God's Word, the Holy Spirit enables us to grow in wisdom by His grace. We are to pursue wisdom as we walk in the Spirit in Biblical love and unity. We are to be wise, loving servants of our faithful God resting in His promises to meet all our needs as we obey, serve, and show our love for Him in the ministry He has given us for the purpose of glorifying God.

How do we get wisdom?

There are several basic prerequisites.

1. **Admit our need.** Solomon said, “With the humble is wisdom” (Proverbs 11:2). The humble are those who do not think more highly of themselves than they should. They are willing to admit that they do not have all the answers, that their opinions may not always be right, and that they need to know the mind of God. In other words, they have a teachable spirit.

2. **Fear the Lord.** The Psalmist said, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (Psalm 111:10). To fear God is not to cower before Him in terror, but to bow before Him in awe, respect, and total trust in His purposes for our lives.

3. **Study God’s Word.** By loving God’s Word and meditating on it daily, the Psalmist discovered that he was wiser than his enemies, that he had more insight than his teachers, and more understanding than the aged (Psalm 119:97-100).

4. **Pray.** “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him” (James 1:5). Sometimes praying for wisdom is the last thing we think to do when we face a knotty problem, a difficult decision, a pressing emergency, or an alarming crisis. The Lord is standing ready to give us His wisdom and we often think about everything we can do to work out the problem except talking to Him about it.

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