

God Is Wise, Incomprehensible

- Hebrew: חֵכֶּמָה (*hokmah*) Greek: σοφία, φρόνιμος (*sophia, phronimos*);
- “the only wise God” (Rom. 16:27).
- “in whom (Christ) are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden” (Col. 2:3).
- omniscience (*all-knowledge*) & wisdom:
 - Wisdom is more than knowing all facts or potential facts; Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.
 - God is naturally, entirely, and invariably wise.
 - The best intellect is not necessarily the wisest person
 - Scripture distinguishes knowledge and wisdom:
 - In god: Rom. 11:33.
 - In man: 1 Cor. 12:8.
 - Scripture also associates God’s wisdom with his power:
 - Job 9:4; 12:13.
 - Romans 16:25-27.
- Definition(s): God’s wisdom is...
 - his ability to achieve his own purposes in the best possible way.
 - his employment of all his attributes, all that he is in every facet of his being, to achieve his end and purpose in a manner that is truly “good.”
 - Rom. 8:28
 - “Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.” [J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*]
 - (The simplicity of God)
- In creation (Prov. 3:19; Jer. 10:12; Psa. 104:24).
- In redemption (1 Cor. 1:24)
- In providence (Rom. 11:33-36; Gen. 50:20)
- PAUL and the Wisdom of God: Eph. 3:2-13:
 - 3:10 “manifold wisdom of God” (πολυποίκιλος σοφία τοῦ θεοῦ)
 - The wisdom of God is displayed in the Person & work of Jesus Christ.
 - The wisdom of God is revealed through the church.
 - The wisdom of God displayed in God’s purpose to save both Jews *and* Gentiles.
 - The wisdom of God is displayed in suffering.

God is incomprehensible

- Claims that God is (essentially and entirely) unknowable:
 - David Hume: knowledge is limited to sense perception

- Immanuel Kant: we can know only *phenomena*, not reality itself
 - Logical positivists: we can know only that which science can prove
- God is knowable, apprehensible (Rom. 1:21, 32; John 17:3)
- Our knowledge is finite: *Finitum non capax infiniti*
 - The effect of sin: Rom. 1:25.
 - Immaturity: Adam – Jesus and growth in knowledge/wisdom
 - Creatureliness:
- Incomprehensible v Inapprehensible:
 - God may be known but not fully (not now or ever in the future)
 - Misuse of John 13:7:
 - Cornelius Van Til and Gordon H. Clark:
 - Do we know the “essence” of God?
 - *Quidity* and *qualis*: Rom. 11:33-36
 - Deut 32:32. Calvin and Job.
- 4 aspects to ponder:
 - *Knowledge*
 - *Wisdom*
 - *Judgments*
 - *His ways.*
- God is incomprehensible to us.