

THE BIBLE VIEW

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God's Wisdom Is Available

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“In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. 7 And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. 9 Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? 10 And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.” 1 Kings 3:5-10

The newly-appointed king, King Solomon, had an opportunity many of us would certainly like to experience. God appeared to Solomon in a dream and asked “... What I shall give thee”?

Most would jump at the opportunity and would request of God great riches, tremendous power, or fame. However, Solomon took his new responsibility seriously and knew his new position should not be about his own greed and gain.

Solomon understood the country would rise or fall on the quality of leadership and the decisions the king would have

to make. The leader was aware of his human weaknesses and realized he would need help in making right judgments. For this reason, the king requested of God “wisdom”. He knew that a wise ruler would be a successful ruler.

Reading I Kings 3 and much of I Kings reveals that God honored His promise and made the leader very wise (I Kings 4:29-32). Citizens and even foreign leaders flocked to the kingdom to see how wise and successful Solomon was.

Although people at that time had character, logic, and some wisdom, the wisdom from the Creator far surpassed what most men would be capable of thinking. Our decisions often lead to regretful mistakes; whereas, God’s wisdom is never wrong and is always the best for the wisdom-seeker.

Today it is rare for a Christian to have God audibly tell one what to do. His wisdom has already been recorded and is there and ready to be followed. It can be found in His preserved word, the Bible.

All a child of God has to do is read it and obey it — no matter how foreign it is to today’s thinking. God wants you to know His mind and way. God did not intend His directions to be a guessing game, but it will take your faith that He has kept His word pure for your guidance. Your faith will be shown by your obedience. Open, read, and follow the pages of wisdom God has kept for you to follow in the Bible.

“God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change, courage to change things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.” — Niebuhr

Getting Advice

Bill Brinkworth

Sometimes it amazes me where folks get their “wisdom.” I remember asking a young lady, “Why would you go to your peers and ask them about dating?”

I turned to the person giving the advice, “Have you ever dated?”

“No,” the adviser replied. “My parents won’t let me yet.”

Back to the person asking the advice, I commented, “So, she has no experience in the area you are asking about; yet you would have made life-changing decisions based on what she suggested you to do.”

She shrugged, “Probably.”

“Wouldn’t it be wiser if you went to a person with experience in the area you need help?” All I got that time was a nod. “And who could you go to that has that experience and is personally interested in helping you with no strings attached?”

She thought about it, and replied, “Well, my parents.”

It makes more sense to go to someone who has been through the trials you are faced with when getting advice.

Like the teenager in the above account, there is a whole world going to the inexperienced or poor examples for advice.

Seeking wisdom from poor sources is not limited to young folks. Adults are far guiltier. There are people following marriage advice from television-celebrity psychologists, whose own marriages are on the rocks. There are other celebrities that give out advice, who on the same show they are giving counsel, have their own psychologists appearing that are trying to help them with their own problems. People unquestionably follow their suggestions.

Many go to friends, television celebrities, newspaper columnists, psychologists, and even fortune-tellers for answers. The people that are relied on for truth and wisdom often have lives as confused as those seeking guidance, and who are also without answers to life's problems.

It is wiser to have one that made the right choices and decisions in the past to help guide the way, not one that is still stumbling to find the right solutions themselves. For Christians, we have a good reliable, always right, source for advice. Our never wrong, raised-a-million-zillion-children counsel can come from God. Through prayer and the scriptures, He can direct our paths in the right way. His directions are never wrong.

He loves us so much, and because He knows that we will face many difficulties through our lifetime, He left a guidebook to help us through our lives. This map-through-

life is the Bible. One whole book is even dedicated to sound advice. It is the book of Proverbs.

Throughout the Bible's pages, one will find advice on who and who not to marry; how to get friends; how to know for sure that your eternal future will be in Heaven; how to handle anger; how to be successful, and much, much more. If the Word of God would be read and followed, psychologists, high school counselors, marriage counselors, and many other advisers would be looking for work.

The only way this wisdom can be extracted, however, is by reading it yourself! To whet your appetite for reading the Word of God here is some of the Bible's advice:

- Advice on who to marry and who to befriend: *“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” II Corinthians 6:14*
- Advice on getting friends: *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.” Proverbs 18:24*
- Advice on how to get to Heaven: *“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” John 3:3*
- Advice on getting the right advice: *“Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” Proverbs 24:6*

- Advice about listening to advice: *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.” Proverbs 12:15*
- Advice on how to handle a hostile person: *“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” Proverbs 15:1*
- Advice on keeping out of trouble: *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” I Thess. 5:22*

Unlike fortune-tellers, television hosts, marriage counselors, and even parents, God’s advice is never wrong. Obeying God’s advice will always guarantee counsel that is best for us. We may not always like what we read, but Father knows best. He has led many before us through the same trials and tribulations we may be facing. All the Christian needs to do to get His direction is to read it for himself in the Word of God, and then follow it.

God even has a book in the Bible entitled “Proverbs”. Proverbs means “wisdom.” Although the whole Bible contains His commandments and advice, “Proverbs” is a good place to start in getting God’s wisdom.

Proverb’s Wise Words about Wisdom

Here are some of the many scriptures found in Proverbs about wisdom:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Prov. 1:7

“For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” Prov. 2:6

“Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.” Prov. 3:13

“Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.” Prov. 4:5

“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.” Prov. 8:11

“The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.” Prov. 10:21

“When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.” Prov. 11:2

“He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.” Prov. 11:12

“How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!” Prov. 16:16

“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.” Prov. 23:4

“Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.” Prov. 23:9

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” Prov. 29:15

“The intellect of the wise is like glass; it admits the light of Heaven and reflects it.” — Julius Charles Hare