

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 748 March 5, 2020

God's Wisdom Is Available

Bill Brinkworth

"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." I 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 position of leadership should not be about his own greed and gain. (*Did you read that, politicians?*)

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 righteous judgments. For this reason, the king requested God's "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 Solomon's success that came from His wisdom.

Although people at that time had character, logic, and some wisdom, the wisdom of 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 must 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

Godly Wisdom

Bill Brinkworth

A proverb is knowledge that has been tested by experience and has proven to be good, trustworthy advice. Solomon, one of the wisest men in biblical times, is giving some of his wisdom in Proverbs 1.

“And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and largeness of heart, even as the sand that is on the sea shore. 30 And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt.” 1 Kings 4:29-30

Many know a lot of things, but that does not make them wise. There are PHDs, famous politicians, teachers, and bosses who are quite intelligent, but that does not mean they have wisdom. Following the daily news and being abreast of activities of prominent leaders and public figures will attest to that fact. They may know it in their head, but the application of their knowledge is far from being practical, logical, and not harmful. They may be proud of their philosophies and decisions, but a wise person can clearly see that their thoughts, intentions, and actions are foolish and will only do damage, not help. When their unwise

choices and ideas are practiced, catastrophe is often not far behind.

On the other hand, there are many, even youngsters, that seem to have a good head on their shoulders and consistently make right, wise choices. Their behavior is much different than peers who seem to be frequently in trouble and often reap consequences from poor judgments and foolishness. Their actions and decisions, even when they get older, reveal that they have wisdom.

So, where does one get wisdom? There is a way to obtain practical, tested, true wisdom. It does not always come from universities, thick manuals, educational television, or even old age. It is slowly learned by practical, applied knowledge, and the beginning of obtaining this true wisdom is to “fear the Lord.”

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

Proverb 1:7

“Fear” does not always mean extreme fright or being afraid of something scary and dangerous. It also means, as it does in this chapter, to have “reverence, respect, and regard” (Webster, 1828) for God and His commandments and laws. Having immense respect for God, believing, trusting, and obeying God and His Word is the beginning of getting wisdom.

Getting one’s mind to the point that they realize they do not know everything, and neither do others, initiates this godly

“fear.” From there, a person is open to realize that there is One that does know everything, and He is the Creator of this world. God’s advice is never wrong.

It is God that made everything we see, feel, or touch. He knows all the answers to our queries, and He is willing to give it to those that will humble themselves and recognize God is one that can be trusted. His truths, advice, and wisdom can be found in His preserved words, the Bible.

Do you want to be wise? Do you want to make the right decisions and avoid the wrong ones? Are you tired of having regrets from bad choices in the past? Realize that you do not always have the answers to life’s situations and problems, but there is One that does, and He is God. Be in awe of his shareable knowledge, seek His guidance, and obey it when He gives it. You will be much wiser than most if you do so.

“Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.” — Spurgeon

Wisdom

Bible Readings for the Home

Why are we told to get wisdom?

“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.” Proverbs 4:7

Of how much value is wisdom?

“She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.” Prov. 3:15

What blessings follow the acquisition of wisdom?

“Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her...” Prov. 4:8-9

Who gives wisdom?

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

How may wisdom be obtained?

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.” James 1:5

What is the beginning of wisdom?

*“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”
Psalm 111:10*

What Wisdom Is

R. Watson

Wisdom consists in three things:

1. Knowledge to discern.
2. Skill to judge.
3. Activity in putting the wisdom to use.

“Experience is knowing a lot of things you shouldn’t do.” — *Spurgeon*

Wisdom And Happiness

C. Colton

There is a difference between happiness and wisdom. He that thinks himself the happiest man really is, but he that thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool.

I Don't Know

J. Vernon McGee

Socrates, in his day, made the statement that he was the wisest of the Athenians. That shocked everybody because he was a very humble man. So, they asked him what he meant. He said something like, "Well, there are a great many of the Athenians who think they know, and I know I do not know. Since I know that I do not know, I am the wisest of the Athenians."

"If you don't know the mountain path, you better seek the right Guide." — *Author Unknown*