

**KNOWING GOD: LESSON 9:  
BEHOLD YOUR GOD! THE WISDOM OF GOD!**

I Timothy 1:17

**I. INTRODUCTION: I**

1. **2** In our last lesson we learned that the one true God revealed in the Bible is a **great** and **majestic** God. He is **omniscient** (all knowing), **omnipotent** (all powerful), and **omnipresent** (present everywhere; Psa. 139).
2. **\*\*** However, knowledge, regardless of its enormity, does not necessarily make one **majestic**. For example, we have all probably known someone who had great intelligence but was a miserable failure.
3. Similarly, great power, in and of itself, does not always make one great.
  - A. History is littered with scores of infamous dictators who wielded great power.
  - B. Yet one would certainly not attach the word **majestic** or **great** to the Hitlers, Stalins, and Moas of this world.
4. **\*\*** God is **majestic** and **great** because His **omniscience** governs His **omnipotence**; His infinite **power** is ruled by His infinite **wisdom**:
 

**Job 12:13:** “With Him are **wisdom** and strength, He has counsel and understanding.”

**Job 36:5:** “...He is mighty in strength and **wisdom**.” (KJV)

**Dan. 2:20:** “Daniel answered and said: ‘Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For **wisdom** and might are His.’”

**Rom. 16:25, 27:** “Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel,...God only **wise**...” (KJV)
5. **3** Definition of **wisdom**: 3 key words...Vine tells us:
  - A. **\*\* sophia**: wisdom (spiritual or worldly).
  - B. **\*\* phronesis**: “understanding, prudence,” i.e., a right use of *phren*, “the mind,”; “intellectual or moral insight,” is translated “wisdom” in Luke 1:17 and “prudence” in Ephesians 1:8.
  - C. **\*\* sunesis**: “understanding, intelligence,” “it suggests quickness of apprehension, the penetrating consideration which precedes action.” (1 Cor. 1:19)
6. “While *sophia* (wisdom, cvt) is the insight into the true nature of things, *phronesis* (prudence, cvt) is the ability to discern modes of action with a view to their results; while *sophia* is theoretical, *phronesis* is practical” (Lightfoot). *Sunesis*, “understanding, intelligence,” is the critical faculty; this and *phronesis* are particular applications of *sophia*. (Vines)
7. **\*\*** Therefore, from a biblical standpoint **wisdom** is:
  - A. More than intelligence or knowledge, more than shrewdness or craftiness.
  - B. To be truly wise, intelligence and shrewdness must be linked to the **right motive**.
8. **\*\*** Thus, in Scripture, **wisdom** is more than an intellectual quality; **wisdom** possesses both intellectual and **moral** properties. Packer provides us with a good “working” definition of **wisdom**:
 

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. Wisdom is, in fact, the practical side of moral goodness. As such, it is found in its fullest only in God. He alone is naturally and entirely and invariably wise.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 90)

**I Tim. 1:17:** “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

9. **4** Infinite **wisdom** plus infinite power, knowledge and presence is God’s essence; therefore, it makes Him utterly worthy of our fullest trust! With this in mind, this morning let us examine the **wisdom** of God so we may better know and serve Him.

## II. DISCUSSION:

- I. **5** Expressions of God’s Wisdom: How does God express His wisdom? At least 4 ways:

A. **\*\* Creation**: In Genesis chapter 1 as God created the universe, He paused six times: “...And saw that it was good.”; that is, what He had done He found pleasing, because it was “done well.” Finally...

**Gen. 1:31-2:1:** “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.”

We can see God’s **wisdom** in creation by the fact that all that He created was “done well” (just right, completely in balance and harmony). For example,

- (1) **Sun and earth**: Sunlight is the ultimate fuel absolutely necessary for life. Humans are the ultimate solar-powered machines! The earth is at the optimum distance from the sun. If we were a fraction closer, we would be a burning cinder. If we were a fraction further away, the surface of our planet would be nothing but a gigantic, barren glacier.
- (2) **Water cycle**: absolute necessity for life. Driven by solar energy, water is continually redistributed between the earth’s oceans and the continents to provide the water necessary for all plant and animal life.
- (3) **Seasons**: absolute necessity for life. If our planet did not tilt on its axis at its precise 23.45° angle, we would not have seasons. As one abundantly acquainted with agriculture; winter is just as necessary for a bountiful crop as the timely rains of spring and summer (e.g., demineralization of nitrogen in the soil).
- (4) **Homeostasis of the human body**: absolute necessity of life. The Psalmist truly said: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;...” (**Psa. 139:14**)

A marvelous example of this is how God created our physical bodies with the mechanism physiologist call **homeostasis**. **Homeostasis** means the “maintenance of static, or constant, conditions in the [bodies, cvt] internal environment.” (*Textbook of Medical Physiology*, A. C. Guyton, M. D., p. 3). In practical terms, **homeostasis** involves the many complex mechanisms our body employs to keep everything from our blood pressure to bodytemperature **constant** (within very narrow ranges). For example, if we are too hot, we sweat to cool down. Also, the blood vessels in our skin dilate to serve as a radiator. If we are too cold, we shiver to produce heat and the blood flow to our skin is decreased to conserve heat. If our blood pressure goes too low our heart rate increases and our blood vessels contract. If our blood pressure is too high our heart slows down and our blood vessels dilate.

**All of these things demonstrate the wisdom of God; His ability to choose and discern just the right things in order to achieve the desired result.** The greatness of God’s **wisdom** in creation can be seen by comparing His **wisdom** to man’s **wisdom**. When man seeks to control nature, he is not always able to see the ultimate consequences of his actions. As a result, undesirable results often follow otherwise good intentioned actions (e.g., damming of rivers in the Pacific NW has endangered many

salmon species; the winter feeding of deer in Michigan contributed to an outbreak of TB that spread to over 50% of the state and to the state's cattle population.)

- B. **\*\* Scheme of redemption:** From the first promise of redemption after the first sin (Gen. 3:15) through the promises to the patriarchs (e.g., Gen. 12:1-3); through the schoolmaster of the Law of Moses (Gal. 3:24), we can see God's **wisdom** working throughout human history to fulfill His plan to reconcile and redeem man. Finally, after thousands of years through the application of His **wisdom** God's plan reached its fruition in Christ:

**Eph. 1:7-10:** *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all **wisdom** and **prudence**, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him."*

- (1) Notice that God's plan of redemption *"abounds toward us in all **wisdom** and **prudence**."*
- That is, God has abundantly made known His purposes and blessings to all.
  - He has made known to us: "the higher knowledge of the most precious things both human and Divine. It (i.e., His revealed plan, cvt) answers the eternal problems of man, such as those dealing with life and death, time and eternity."
  - His plan not only reveals His **wisdom** but also His **prudence**, that is, God's plan deals "with the practical problems of life. God has the answers and he knows how to use them" to solve our most unsolvable problem—**SIN!** (quotations from *Truth Commentary on Ephesians*, C. G. Caldwell, p. 30; all emphases mine, cvt)
- (2) Notice also that God used His **wisdom** to reveal the final ultimate mystery of His plan (i.e., redemption through Christ) *"in the dispensation of the fullness of time."* That is...
- "God's plan was worked out in an orderly way and in keeping with the divine plan for the administration of the times and bounds of man's habitation on earth (cf. Acts 17:26). The expression fullness of times simply means 'when the time was right.' When God determined (in His **wisdom**, cvt) that the proper time had come in his dealings with man to send Christ into the world, He enacted his plan." (*Truth Commentary on Ephesians*, C. G. Caldwell, p. 33)
- (3) **Truly, God's scheme of redemption demonstrates His **wisdom**; His power to see, and His inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.**

- C. **\*\* People's lives:** There are abundant examples, both in the Old and New Testaments, where we see God working His **wisdom** through people. For example,

- (1) **Abraham:** through His **wisdom** God turned a man:
- Who endangered his own wife's chastity by his repeated cowardly deceptions (Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-11), and,
  - Who caved to his wife's henpecking to produce a child contrary to God's plan (Gen. 16:1-2; 17:17-18), and,
  - Who then allowed his wife to cast a woman who he had gotten pregnant (Hagar) into the wilderness without sustenance or support (Gen. 16:4-7),

into

**Heb. 11:13, 16:** "...died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ... 16 Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God,..."

**Gal. 3:29:** "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

(2) **Paul:** through His **wisdom** God turned a man:

- (a) Who was a self-admitted blasphemer, a persecutor, and violently arrogant (1 Tim. 1:13), and,
- (b) Who described himself as the "chief" of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15),

**into**

one "...not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles" (2 Cor. 11:5), one "...exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations" (2 Cor. 12:7).

(3) **Surely, as God works with men who are open and yielding to His ways, we can discern His wisdom; His power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.**

D. **\*\* Gospel:** Notice as Paul contrasts the **wisdom** of God with the **wisdom** of this world in **1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5**. There is so much meat in this passage, but in the interest of time, let us distill it down to the points most pertinent to our topic:

- (1) The gospel is not just another human philosophy!
- (2) Human **wisdom** does not possess the ability to come to a knowledge of God without the assistance of divine revelation; and, this is in accordance with the **wisdom** of God. God planned it this way!

"Neither Jewish nor Grecian wise men could, by their own unaided reason, come to know God. The world stood hopelessly in need of revelation." (*Truth Commentary on 1 Corinthians*, M. Willis, p. 38-39)

- (3) God has reduced to absurdity, or made foolish, the world's **wisdom** by not allowing it any part in the most important issue of human life—salvation!
- (4) God has accomplished through the death of Jesus (which the world considers foolishness or a stumbling block) what man could not achieve through his own **wisdom** and strength—salvation!
- (5) The gospel is the **wisdom** and **power** (*dunamis*, cf. Rom. 1:16) of God! Paul offers four proofs to substantiate these claims:
  - (a) The gospel was totally and completely contrary to the **wisdom** of both Jews (religious) and Greeks (irreligious). Therefore, on the basis of human philosophy (whether that philosophy is religiously or secularly based) the true gospel (**wisdom** and power of God) will **always** be rejected (either explicitly or implicitly).
  - (b) The type of people who would be converted by the gospel, proves that it is God's **wisdom**, not human **wisdom**, v. 26: "For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."
  - (c) The things chosen by God to be involved with salvation (e.g., a crucified Savior, baptism, simplicity of NT worship, etc.) prove the gospel is according to God's **wisdom** and not mans, vs. 27-28, (remember Naaman, 2 Kgs. 5?).

“But God has chosen the **foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the **weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the **base things** of the world and the **things** which are **despised** God has chosen, and the **things which are not**,” (i.e., things in which the world does not see value, cvt) to bring to nothing the things that are,” (things in which the world does see value, cvt)

- (d) The way the gospel was preached proves it's God's **wisdom** and not mans, I Cor. 2:1-4:

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of **wisdom** declaring to you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,”

- (6) **Why, in His wisdom, did God chose to save man in a way and through a message that the world considers foolish?**

**I Cor. 1:29-31:** “that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us **wisdom** from God; and righteousness and sanctification and redemption; 31 that, as it is written, ‘He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.’”

**I Cor. 2:5:** “that your faith should not be in the **wisdom** of men but in the power of God.”

- (7) In His **wisdom**, God wants man to realize that what man could not accomplish through his own **wisdom** and strength; God has accomplished through the death of Jesus—salvation! See I Cor. 1:30

**Jer. 10:23:** “O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

**Prov. 3:5:** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;”

**Prov. 14:12:** “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”

- (8) **Surely, through the gospel, the power and wisdom of God, we can discern His wisdom; His power to see, His inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.**

2. **6 Applying God's wisdom to our lives:** To apply God's wisdom to our lives we need to do **four** things:

A. **We must come to a realization of what wisdom is NOT:**

- (1) Many Christians have the *wrong* concept of what it means to acquire divine **wisdom**. Permit me to make this clearer with an illustration:

If you were to stand at the window inside one of the terminals at Chicago's O'Hare Airport you would notice the constant take-offs and landings of aircraft. You would notice the multitude of people and vehicles scurrying about as they moved baggage and cargo from plane-to-plane and between planes and the terminals. You would also notice all the people and equipment as they busily serviced the aircraft by providing the fuel and supplies necessary for their operation. And, you would probably find all this activity quite fascinating. However, such a vantage point would only give you a very rough and general idea of what was taking place.

However, suppose you were privileged enough to be taken up into the control tower. There you would see a host of people sitting at radar screens and in direct visual and voice contact with all the aircraft and ground vehicles servicing the airplanes. You would instantly notice that every movement of every aircraft, vehicle, and person is carefully controlled and orchestrated in such a way as to achieve the results of the safe and efficient

operation of the airport. You would have an *inside view*; you would know the *why's* and the *wherefores* of all of these seemingly uncoordinated movements from this vantage point.

- (2) Many Christians make the mistake of supposing that this latter illustration is what is involved in having godly **wisdom**.
  - (a) They suppose that godly **wisdom** consists of a “deepened insight into the providential meaning and purpose of events going on around us, an ability to see why God has done what he has done in a particular case, and what he is going to do next.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, pgs. 102)
  - (b) They think that godly **wisdom** will allow them to discern a divine purpose for every event in their lives.
- (3) I am **NOT** suggesting that God does not use providential circumstances to shape and mold our lives. But, make no mistake about it, it is **futile** to try to interpret **every** circumstance of life as some **specific** signal from God.
- (4) We need to re-examine our “working” definition of **wisdom**!
 

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.”
- (5) You and I are not privy to every intricate detail of what goes on in God’s control tower; God doesn’t work that way (e.g., Job). However, through His word He has given us principles that we must follow regardless of any unexpected or tragic circumstances life may throw into our path (e.g., Paul in 2 Cor. 12:9).

**B. \*\* We must learn the lessons taught about wisdom in the book of Ecclesiastes.**

- (1) The overall theme of the book is voiced in the first few verses:
 

**Eccl. 1:2-3:** “Vanity of vanities,’ says the Preacher; ‘Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.’ 3 What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun?”
- (2) “Is this the confession of an embittered cynic, a selfish and callous old man of the world who found at the end nothing but a dire disillusionment?” (W. H. Elliot)
- (3) No, what the preacher is showing God’s people is the real foundation of **wisdom**.
  - (a) Real **wisdom** involves an acknowledgment that the events in the ebb and flow of this world are often enigmatic and that much of what happens to us in the ordinary course of life can be quite unexplainable (Eccl. 9:11).
  - (b) Most things that take place “*under the sun*” show little evidence that a “rational, moral God is ordering them at all.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 105) For example, consider that...
    - ✓ Life under the sun is filled with seeming aimless & recurring cycles in nature (1:4-7),
    - ✓ Life under the sun appears to be shaped by fixed times and circumstances over which we have no control (3:1-8; 9:11-12),
    - ✓ Death comes sooner or later to everyone, and death’s coming is haphazard and bears no relation to whether we think it is deserved or not (7:15; 8:8),
    - ✓ Humans die like beasts (3:19-20), the good die just like the bad, the wise die just like the fool (2:14; 16; 9:2-3),
    - ✓ Evil seems to run rampant and unchecked (3:16; 4:1; 5:8; 8:11; 9:3); the wicked prosper, and the good do not (8:14),



- ✓ As hard as you may try you can't figure out God's ordering of events here under the sun (3:11; 7:13-14; 8:17; 11:15).
- (4) It appears that the more we try to understand God's purpose in providence the less we comprehend to the point of being so depressed that we are tempted to throw up our hands and conclude that life really is as pointless as it looks!
- (5) And, once you come to this conclusion, what profit can you find in any kind of constructive endeavor?
- Eccl. 1:3:** *"What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun?"*
- Eccl. 2:11:** *"Then I looked on all the works that my hands had done and on the labor in which I had toiled; and indeed all was vanity and grasping for the wind. There was no profit under the sun."; cf. 2:22; 3:9; 5:16*
- (6) If life is senseless and valueless, then what's the point in working to create things, build a business, make money; or even seek **wisdom**? For it seems...
- ✓ None of it has any obvious, lasting good! (2:15-16, 22-23; 5:11),
  - ✓ The more you make, the more you become an object of envy! (4:4),
  - ✓ You can't take it with you! (2:18-21; 4:8; 5:15-16),
  - ✓ What leave behind will probably be wasted! (2:19)
- (7) If this is what life is really all about, what's the use? **Eccl. 1:14:** *"I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind."*
- (8) This is also exactly where you can wind up if you expect to find a divine purpose for everything "under the sun":
- Eccl. 1:17-18:** *"And I set my heart to know **wisdom** and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is grasping for the wind. 18 For in much **wisdom** is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow."*
- (9) We spend too much time trying to live in O'Hare's control tower when God does not allow us that clear of a view of life.
- Eccl. 11:15:** *"As you do not know what is the way of the wind, Or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, So you do not know the works of God who makes everything."*
- (10) Be extremely careful if you try to think you can ascend into God's control tower!
- (a) What will you do when some unforeseen tragedy or misfortune strikes?
  - (b) Question your faith? Question God? Does He really care? Does He really exist? Remember Job and Isa. 40 from last week?
- Job 30:20-21:** *"I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You regard me. 21 But You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me."*
- Job 31:35a:** *"Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me,..."*
- Isa. 40:27:** *"Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: 'My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God?'"*
- (11) What then is **wisdom**? The preacher has helped us see what it is **NOT**.
- (a) When people of the world come to the conclusions Solomon came they often put a bullet in their brain!
  - (b) Is that Solomon's **FINAL** conclusion? **NO!!**

**Eccl. 12:13:** “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all” (i.e., whole duty, KJV).

- ✓ Trust, obey, reverence and worship God! (5:1)
- ✓ Be careful what you say and promise in the sight of God and man! Don’t promise more than you can deliver! (5:2-7)
- ✓ Live in the present and enjoy life thoroughly (7:14; 9:7-10; 11:9-10), enjoy your work (2:24; 3:12-13; 5:18-20; 8:15), for the pleasures of life are gifts from God!
- ✓ **BUT** don’t do **ANYTHING**, even in secret, that you do not want to have to answer for to God!

**Eccl. 12:14:** “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

**We must also...**

**C. \*\* Take the proper steps to lay hold of wisdom:**

(1) **Reverence God:** over and over again in the **wisdom** literature...

**Psa. 111:10/Prov. 9:10:** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom**,”

**Job 28:28:** “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is **wisdom**,”

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

**Prov. 15:33:** “The fear of the LORD is the instruction of **wisdom**,”

**Rom. 1:20-22:** “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,”

**V. 24:** Therefore God also **gave them up**...

**V. 26:** For this reason God **gave them up**...

**V. 28-29:** “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God **gave them over** to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness,...”

**HOW do we reverence God? ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING!**

“Not till we have become humble and teachable, standing in awe of God’s holiness and sovereignty, acknowledging our own littleness, distrusting our own thoughts and willing to have our minds turned upside down, can divine **wisdom** become ours.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 101)

**Deut. 10:17:** “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome,”

- ✓ Fully appreciate His **greatness** and **majesty**! Come to the conclusion Job came to!

**Job 42:1-6:** “Then Job answered the LORD and said: 2 ‘**I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.**’ 3 You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. 4 Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ 5 ‘I have heard of You



by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. 6 Therefore I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.”

- ✓ Remember the 5 reasons given in Isa. 40 (Lesson #8) that we are to shed our faulty thinking about God? If you don't remember, I urge you to GO BACK AND READ!

(2) **Be a hearer and doer of His word:**

**Psa. 119:98-99:** “You, through Your commandments, make me **wiser** than my enemies; For they are ever with me. 99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies are my meditation.”

**Col. 3:16:** “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all **wisdom**,” (cf. Eph. 3:17; Rom. 10:17)

**Jas. 1:23-25:** “For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

**2 Tim. 3:15-17:** “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise** for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**HOW? THE PATH IS NOT A “SECRET”!**

“What fools some of us are! And we remain fools all our lives simply because we will not take the trouble to do what has to be done to receive the **wisdom** which is God's free gift.” (J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 102)

- ✓ Read (i.e., seek **wisdom**!! Eph. 3:4; at a minimum, read Proverbs chapters 1-9!!!),
- ✓ Apply diligence (i.e., study!! 1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5),
- ✓ Pray for **Wisdom** (Jas. 1:5),
- ✓ Meditate on the Word (Psa. 119:15, 48, 78, 148; 1 Tim. 4:15; Phil. 4:8).
- ✓ Apply God's Word to our daily lives...diligently!

**Heb. 5:14:** “But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

**1 Jn. 2:3-4:** “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

**Jn. 14:15:** “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

**D. 7 We must bear the fruits of wisdom in our lives.**

(1) Recall our “working” definition of **wisdom**:

“Wisdom is the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.”

(2) With this in mind, to be truly wise, we must realize that the **wisdom** God grants us **through His word** achieves that very end for us.

- (a) *His wisdom gives us the power to see, and the inclination to choose, the best and highest goal for which He has created us, together with the surest means of attaining it!*

(b) In other words, His **wisdom** gives us everything we **NEED** to know in order to be successful (spiritually speaking!) human beings:

**2 Pet. 1:3:** “as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”

(3) We have already seen that the **wisdom** God gives does not involve sharing all His knowledge. Rather, we display the **wisdom** He provides when we...

- ✓ Develop the submissiveness to confess that He alone is wise (Rom. 16:27),
- ✓ Realize that His commandments are not burdensome (1 Jn. 5:3),
- ✓ Follow His word as our **ONLY** complete and **PERFECT** guide (Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11),
- ✓ Come to a knowledge that our job is to cleave to Him regardless of the vicissitudes of life “under the sun” (Eccl. 12:13-14).

**Man’s View**



Birth

Death

**Book of Ecclesiastes**  
“Life Under the Sun”

**God’s View**



Birth

Death

**Eternity**  
(Eccl. 12:13-14)

**III. CONCLUSION: 8**

1. Do you desire **wisdom**? The **wisdom** of the world or the **wisdom** of God?

**Prov. 4:5-10:** “Get **wisdom**! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 **Wisdom** is the principal thing; Therefore get **wisdom**. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you.” 10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.”

**Psa. 111:10:** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **wisdom**; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.”

**Psa. 90:12:** “So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of **wisdom**.”

2. \*\* If you have not obeyed the gospel of Christ, the first step to **wisdom** is to obey Him! In God’s **wisdom** to be saved one must:

- ✓ Hear: Rom. 10:17
- ✓ Believe: Heb. 11:6
- ✓ Confess: Rom. 10:10
- ✓ Repent: Acts 17:30
- ✓ Baptism: Acts 22:16
- ✓ Remain faithful: Col. 1:21-23

3. Be wise, do as God’s **wisdom** instructs, **today!** **2 Cor. 6:2**

Some of the material in this sermon is from *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer