

September 6, 2020
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
James 3:13-18

“Show Me God’s Wisdom” – Part 1

VII. Show Me God’s Wisdom

A. The Question (13a) – Who among you is wise and understanding?

Greek wisdom	Hebrew wisdom
Man-centered	God-centered
Academic knowledge	Practical ability or skill
Primarily affects your mind	Affects your entire being
May produce no change in your life	Will display itself in your conduct

“Wisdom” = skillful application of God’s truth to every area of life

Prov. 1:1-6 – overall purpose statement of the book of Proverbs

- Disciplined **morally** and **mentally**.
- Spiritually **discerning**.
- **Prudent**.

You should want to have biblical wisdom! Great benefits! (Prov. 2:1-9; Eccl. 8:5; Prov. 13:14; 24:3; Eccl. 9:11; Prov. 3:35; 12:18; 3:16-24)

Wisdom is the most valuable asset you can have! Prov. 16:16; 3:13-15; 8:1ff; Lk. 2:52; Rom. 16:19; Col. 1:28; 4:5 Eph. 5:15

Wisdom calls you to make a decision. Choose or reject her. Prov. 8:32-36

Wisdom comes from God (James 1:5; 3:15, 17)

- Two ways in life. Choose the way of wisdom. Ps. 1; Mt. 7; Prov. 4:10-19; James 3:13-18

What does wisdom look like?

1. Fear God! Prov. 1:7

2. Be absolutely convinced that God’s ways are always right. Hos. 14:9

3. Walk in God’s ways. Skillfully apply His truth to every area of your life. Hos. 14:9

How do we become wise? Where do we get this wisdom?

1. Wisdom starts with a right relationship with God through Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 1:30

2. Wisdom grows and develops through an understanding of God’s Word. 2 Tim. 3:14-17

3. Wisdom comes through the influence of wise people. Prov. 13:20; 17:12

4. Prayer. James 1:5; Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. How have you been doing this past week in taming your tongue? Is your tongue bearing witness to the fact that your heart has been transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ? What evidence have you seen of the Holy Spirit having greater control of your words this past week? Where do you continue to have the greatest difficulty controlling your tongue and using it for God's glory and the good of others? What can you do this week to improve in those circumstances?
2. What is wisdom and understanding? What part does knowledge play in being wise? What part does discipline play in being wise? How is biblical wisdom different from wisdom in the Greek / Western way of approaching life (especially in the educational system)? Are intelligence and wisdom the same thing?
3. What specific areas of your life have you demonstrated the most skillful application of God's truth? What specific areas are the weakest right now? What knowledge do you need to grow wiser in those areas? What discipline do you need? How specifically will you seek to grow in those areas this week?
4. Why does the Bible speak so often about two ways in life? (See Psalm 1; Prov. 4:10-19; Mt. 7:13-27) Aren't there more than two ways? Why is it that God's Word sees two ways and not more? What is the point? How can we make sure we are on the one way that is right in God's eyes?
5. What are some of the biblical advantages of being wise? (Start with the verses on the front of the outline and then add your own) What are some of the disadvantages of being foolish?
6. Read Prov. 2:1-5. Notice the verbs associated with seeking / desiring wisdom. What kind of effort is implied by those words? What would that look like for us on a daily / weekly basis? On a scale of 1 to 10, how much effort are you putting in to become wise(r)? How could you discipline your schedule this week to devote more time to becoming a person characterized by being wise and understanding?
7. According to Scripture, the person who is wise is one who: fears God; is convinced God's ways are right; and walks in those ways. How are you doing in each of those areas? How specifically does this show up in your lifestyle / habits? What could you do this week to grow stronger in each of those areas?
8. Jesus is the wisdom of God (Col. 2:1-3). Do you know Him as your Lord and Savior? Have you put your trust in Him alone as the only way you can be forgiven, be seen as righteous by God, and have eternal life? If not, what is keeping you from doing that right now?
9. What is your daily plan to be in the Word of God to acquire God's wisdom? Does your current plan demonstrate a hunger to be wise and keep growing wiser?
10. What foolish influences are you allowing into your life (i.e., friends, music, education, Internet, TV, movies...)? What is Solomon's warning in Prov. 13:20 and 17:12 about being around fools? What wise influences are you choosing to have in your life on a consistent basis? How often do you get together with truly wise people and ask them questions about the difficult issues of life and how to apply God's wisdom? Discipline your life and schedule to fill your heart & mind with wisdom from God.
11. Since true wisdom comes from God, prayer is vital to growing in wisdom. Do you pray before making decisions? If not, why not? Read Joshua 9 (esp. v. 14). What happened when the children of Israel made decisions without seeking the Lord? How can you make praying for wisdom a priority in your decision-making?

Show Me God's Wisdom!

James 3:13–18 (NASB95) – ¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

¹⁴ But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and *so* lie against the truth.

¹⁵ This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing.

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

¹⁸ And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown
in peace by those who make peace.

A. The Question (13)

¹³ Who among you is wise and understanding?

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Wise = accumulated knowledge & discernment

Understanding = showing knowledge, skill &
aptitude

Wisdom = skillful application of God's truth
to every area of life

Proverbs 1:1-6 = overall purpose statement
of the book

² to know **wisdom** and instruction, to discern the sayings of **understanding**, ³ to receive **instruction** in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity;

⁴ to give prudence to the naive, to the youth
knowledge and discretion,

⁵ a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and
a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

⁶ to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of
the wise and their riddles.

Is that you?

Do you want to be a biblically wise person?

You should want to have biblical wisdom!

Prov. 2:8; Eccl. 8:5; Prov. 13:14; 24:3;

Eccl. 9:11; Prov. 3:35; 12:18

Prov. 3:16-24

Prov. 16:16

Prov. 3:13-15

Proverbs 8

Luke 2:52; Rom. 16:19; Col. 1:28;
Eph. 5:15; Col. 4:5

Wisdom comes from God (James 1:5; 3:15, 17)

1. Fear God – Prov. 1:7

2. Be absolutely convinced that God's ways are
always right – Hosea 14:9

3. Walk in God's ways. Skillfully apply His truth to every area of your life – Hosea 14:9

1. Wisdom starts with a right relationship with God
through **Jesus Christ** – 1 Cor. 1:30

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NASB95) – But by His doing you are in **Christ Jesus**, who became to us **wisdom from God**, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,

2. Wisdom grows and develops through an understanding of **God's Word** – 2 Tim. 3:14-17

3. Wisdom comes through the influence of **wise people** – Prov. 13:20; 17:12

4. **Prayer!** James 1:5; Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9

So What?

1. Are you wise and understanding?

2. Is your wisdom evident both
mentally and **morally**?

3. Do you love and long for godly wisdom?

4. Do you **fear** God?

5. Are you appropriating God's means of becoming wise?