



1st Quarter 2015 Proverbs Lesson 4 Divine Wisdom

Memory Text: “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old”
Proverbs 8:22 NKJV

- Is there any other kind of wisdom
- Wisdom is “Fullness of knowledge and its application”
- Knowledge and practice for good / right
- Knowledge of evil and its practice for lies and distortion

When Adam and Eve rebelled:

they did receive knowledge of Good & Evil

- Was that wisdom?
- Was it given to them?
- Who gave it to them?

Wisdom

One of the definitions of wisdom is “the accumulated knowledge of the ages.” Just because knowledge is accumulated, does not mean it is good.

Time

does not sanctify error

Just because a belief is held for a long period of time, does not mean it is truth

Popularity

In this day and age, opinion polls are considered extremely important: Just because something is held to be true by a large number of people, does not mean it is true or good.

Sincerity

Just because a person is sincere does not mean what they believe is correct.

- A person sincerely driving on the wrong side of the road is not likely to safely arrive at their destination.
- A person sincerely going in the wrong direction will not arrive on time, at the right place or with the right outcome.
- Sincerely operating on the wrong extremity will result in the right outcome.

It may be important to differentiate Wisdom from Righteousness. Righteousness: the right thing to do. It is right because it leads to the right outcome, it is consistent with how something was designed.

You can't make something “right” by declaring it to be so.

- You can only make a judgement based on what something is.



- The quality of that judgement is based on
- Who is making the judgement and are they competent to do so.
- How accurate is the benchmark or mechanism for measurement.

I personally do not believe that even God can make something so by declaring it to be so unless that declaration implies Action of Creation.

SABBATH

Read Sabbath Afternoon's lesson from the lesson guide

Thinking about Wisdom and Divine Wisdom

- Did the Pharisees have truth?
- Did they have wisdom?
- Did they have understanding?
- How are we as current day Christians different?

Paint by numbers vs art

- Both are visual depictions of reality
- From a distance they may even seem similar
- What is the difference?
- How do you see Divine Wisdom?
- Is it artistry or paint by numbers?

When we hear statements about God filling us and living His life out through us, what does that look like?

Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.

It is the privilege of every Christian not only to look for but to hasten the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, (2 Peter 3:12, margin). Were all who profess His name bearing fruit to His glory, how quickly the whole world would be sown with the seed of the gospel. Quickly the last great harvest would be ripened, and Christ would come to gather the precious grain. {COL 69.2}

We are to pray for divine enlightenment, but at the same time we should be careful how we receive everything termed new light. We must beware lest, under cover of searching for new truth, Satan shall divert our minds from Christ and the special truths for this time. I have been shown that it is the device of the enemy to lead minds to dwell upon some obscure or unimportant point, something that is not fully revealed or is not essential to our salvation. This is made the absorbing theme, the "present truth," when all their investigations and suppositions only serve to make matters more obscure than before, and to confuse the minds of some who



ought to be seeking for oneness through sanctification of the truth.—Preach the Word, p. 4 (1891).{CW 49.2}

It is the first and highest duty of every rational being to learn from the Scriptures what is truth, and then to walk in the light and encourage others to follow his example. We should day by day study the Bible diligently, weighing every thought and comparing scripture with scripture. With divine help we are to form our opinions for ourselves as we are to answer for ourselves before God.

The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed. These men are false teachers. It was to such a class that Jesus declared: "Ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God." Mark 12:24. The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: "If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine." John 7:17. If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error....{DD 38.4}

SUNDAY

Wisdom Cries Out

Wisdom and Folly are described in anthropomorphic terms.

In the second paragraph: "However one understands these metaphors, what is clear is that wisdom is to be communicated, it is heard by all who will listen.

Can this be done? Can wisdom be communicated?

"Be still and know that I am God"

Paul's discussion with the church based in the center of Greek hedonism has something for us to consider:

1 Corinthians 1:17-25 GNB (17) Christ did not send me to baptize. He sent me to tell the Good News, and to tell it without using the language of human wisdom, in order to make sure that Christ's death on the cross is not robbed of its power. (18) For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. (19) The scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and set aside the understanding of the scholars." (20) So then, where does that leave the wise? or the scholars? or the skillful debaters of this world? God has shown that this world's wisdom is foolishness! (21) For God in his wisdom made it impossible for people to know him by means of their own wisdom. Instead, by means of the so-called "foolish" message we preach, God decided to save



those who believe. (22) Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom. (23) As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles; (24) but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God. (25) For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

MONDAY

Wisdom and Creation

There is a discussion about how Wisdom was in the beginning with God. Third paragraph:

“Yet, the word “beginning” in Proverbs 8:22 is used somewhat differently from the way it is used in Genesis 1. In Genesis 1:1, the word is related to the Creation itself, while in Proverbs 8:22, the word is related to God Himself, to His way (derek), which means His nature. **Thus, wisdom is part of the very nature of God Himself.**”

How do we know that?

Read last paragraph: “So, wisdom does not originate in us, . . .”

TUESDAY

Rejoicing in Creation

Read Proverbs 8:30-31 GNB “I was beside him like an architect, I was his daily source of joy, always happy in his presence -- (31) happy with the world and pleased with the human race.”

Wisdom is happy in God’s presence and pleased with the human race. When do we find God dancing?

Luke 15:7 – 10 There is a party in heaven when a lost one is saved.

WEDNESDAY

Wisdom’s Appeal

Read the second, third and fourth paragraphs. Why do you have to keep working at obtaining the wisdom of God? Why can’t you “coast?”

Read the highlighted paragraph at the bottom of the page. It says, “Happiness can be an elusive thing: the more we strive for it, the harder it seems for us to attain it.”

The United States Declaration of Independence says:



“When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. . .”

Is this wrong? How do we pursue Happiness? Is there a system or method that works better than others? Then why are people so unhappy?

Consider 1 Timothy 6:6 GW translation says “A godly life brings huge profits to people who are content with what they have.”

That is not what you will hear from any advertisement on TV / Radio / Personal Media

THURSDAY

Lesson: Either/Or

We now have a portrayal of Wisdom and Folly the Thursday’s lesson compares the two.

Read the middle three paragraphs. Have you heard wisdom and folly calling out in the streets? Who has a louder voice? How can you tell who is calling?

Can you trust your conscience to be accurate? Why or why not?

Why is Folly incorrect or a poor choice? It is not how we are made? It doesn’t obey the “rules” upon which life is constructed. It doesn’t make sense when true discernment is used to “judge” it.