Wise Up! Choose God's Wisdom

LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE

We all have a built-in compass or GPS that helps us make decisions in life based on what we know. But here's the catch: if our knowledge is wrong or inaccurate, we'll end up making mistakes and going in the wrong direction. That's why it's important to WISE UP and choose God's wisdom. But what does that mean exactly?

God's wisdom is all about applying His truth to our lives. It means using the knowledge and understanding that comes from God and His word to make choices according to His will. There are two types of wisdom described in James 3:13-18 – worldly wisdom and godly wisdom. Earthly wisdom is driven by selfishness and jealousy, and it leads to destructive behaviors. On the other hand, godly wisdom is pure, peaceful, gentle, and reasonable. It produces positive results in our lives and in our relationships with others. The Apostle Paul further explained the difference between godly wisdom and worldly wisdom in 1 Corinthians to help the church in Corinth deal with their problems caused by their self-centered thinking.

Centered on Christ

1 Corinthians 1:18 tells us that God's wisdom is the Word of the Cross, the Gospel, which appears foolish to the world. However, to those who appreciate it, it is the power of God that saves us (Romans 1:16). In contrast, human wisdom is considered foolishness when compared to God's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:19-20). The world's wisdom is insufficient to truly know God; it becomes a stumbling block to understanding Him. Preaching the gospel and proclaiming salvation through Jesus may be met with disbelief and offense because it challenges the world's view of itself and its imperfections. However, for those who grasp it, Christ is recognized as the power and wisdom of God. The gospel remains hidden to those who are perishing due to the enemy's blinding influence (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Counterintuitive

God's ways are far above human understanding (Isaiah 55:8-9). Despite this reality, human arrogance often leads people to insist on their own ways and opinions. Choosing God's wisdom goes against our natural inclination. In 1 Corinthians 1:25-27, Paul reminds the Corinthians that not many of them are considered wise, noble, or powerful according to worldly standards. God intentionally chose ordinary people so that no one could boast before Him (Jeremiah 9:23-24). The key to gaining wisdom is knowing God through Jesus Christ. It is through a deepening relationship with Him, not mere intellectual knowledge, that we gain wisdom.

Changing Power through the Holy Spirit

True power lies in the ability to change people's hearts. In 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Paul explains that through Jesus Christ, we not only find wisdom but also have righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. These benefits are made accessible to us through Christ's sacrifice (2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 10:10, Ephesians 1:7). Paul exemplifies this in his own ministry, as recounted in 1 Corinthians 2:1-3. He put his confidence in the power of God, relying on the truth of the gospel rather than his own efforts or eloquence. The wisdom of God, which is often not understood by the world, is declared by believers (Ephesians 3:9-11). We serve as a testimony to the universe, showcasing God's wisdom.

The magnificence of God's wisdom is revealed to us through the Holy Spirit, who serves as our capable Helper in our walk with God (1 Corinthians 2:9-12). As believers, we have an incredible future in Christ Jesus. The combination of God's Word, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and our obedience unleashes God's power. It is essential for the Spirit to dwell in us and for us to belong to Christ to access this power (Romans 8:9). Therefore, let us continually surrender to the Spirit's guidance and embrace God's wisdom in all aspects of our lives.

last week's memory verse

For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

discuss this message

What "worldly" wisdom have you used before to manage conflicts? How did it go? What aspect of Godly wisdom did you appreciate the most? How will you apply godly wisdom in resolving conflicts?

How will you know if you are resting on the wisdom of men or the power of God?

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July 19, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

- · Book 1: One by One, Session 5
- · Book 4: CCF DNA. Session 1

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Book 6: Basic Doctrines, Session 1 August 6, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Room 3A

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God brought you here for His purpose.

God loves you.

He desires for you to have a meaningful life with Him in the present and gain eternal life with Him in the future.

Know therefore that the Lord your God,

God is holy.

We are sinful, and our sin separates us from Him.

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. - Romans 3:23

God is merciful.

In His love, He made the only way for us to be reconciled to Him: through His son, Jesus Christ. Jesus had to die on the cross for our sins and be raised to life for eternity.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. – Romans 5:8

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. - John 14:6

God is gracious.

By placing our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of our sins and saved from eternal death.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. - John 3:16

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. - Ephesians 2:8-9

God keeps His promises.

You can be sure that you have eternal life when you trust in Jesus.

And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. — 1 John 5:11-13



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