

The Wisdom of God

One of the neglected attributes of God is His Wisdom.

Attributes are the qualities or characteristics of a person, their essence or nature.

Many attributes make up the nature of God.

His **Omnipotence** – He is all-powerful.

His **Omniscience** – He is all-knowing.

His **Omnipresence** – He is everywhere.

His **Sovereignty** – His right to do as He pleases.

His **Holiness** – His “*otherness*” or hatred of sin.

His **Justice** – His determination to punish sin.

His **Love** – His care over people.

His **Mercy** – His forgiveness.

His **Wisdom** – His sound judgement.

This last but far from least is the focus of our study.

Important distinctions:-

The differences between wisdom and knowledge.

Knowledge – refers to information or facts.

Wisdom – refers to the use of information and facts.

The differences between cleverness and wisdom.

Cleverness – is being quick to learn or skilful.

Wisdom – the proper use of learning or skill.

Note: A person may be clever but not wise.

The differences between intelligence, intellectual and being wise.

Intelligence – the speed at which we perceive things.

Intellectual – the power of reasoning and acquiring knowledge.

Wisdom – the sound judgement when using reason and knowledge.

God’s Wisdom:- [definition]

The inscrutability of sound judgement and the ability to get things done.

Romans 11:33-34 [NIV] *“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?”*”

God’s Judgement is perfect and unimprovably sound.

The depth of God’s Wisdom is un-knowable. We only get a taste of it after it has been expressed.

Why is the study important?

Nothing can inspire or edify us more than focusing on God Himself.

Such a study can be encouraging as it reminds us all that we are in the hands of a wise and loving God.

Quote Augustine:- *“God loves every person as though there were no-one else to love.”*

Ephesians 1:7-8 [NIV] *“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”*

The depth of God’s Wisdom has been applied to all His dealings with us. No-one could have guided our lives better than our all wise Creator God.

This helps us to keep our mouths shut when at first we may be tempted to question God’s Will for our lives. Question the experiences He may allow us to endure.

The more we seek to know God’s Wisdom the more it helps us to *“wait and see”* before we question what may have happened to us.

This study will help us to be humble.

As we study God’s wise ways it will breed in us a respect for His ways and a humbling of the estimate we have of our own wisdom.

We all need such humbling!

This study glorifies and honours God as we take time to see more of His ways of dealing with His created children.

Hebrews 3:10 [NIV] *“That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’”*

This could well be said of the generations we live among today. Neither children, middle-aged or the old know God and His ways.

Hebrews 3:11 [NIV] *“So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’”*

Seeking to know God better through this study could save us great sorrow and a missed inheritance.

The biblical words for wisdom

Hebrew:- *“chokmâh”* [khok-maw] skilful ability to reason and rightly apply it to life.

The wisdom in the Old Testament is intensely practical, applied knowledge that results in success and correct planning to gain the desired result.

Wisdom may be used interchangeably with understanding, insight or prudence.

Proverbs 23:4, 9 [NIV] *“Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint.” ... “Do not speak to a fool, for he will scorn the wisdom of your words.”*

Psalms 136:5 [NIV] *“who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures for ever.”*

Proverbs 12:8 [NIV] *“A man is praised according to his wisdom, but men with warped minds are despised.”*

Greek:- *“sōphōs”* [sof-os] wise – to exercise the mind – thoughtful – insight.

There is the same practical nature to the New Testament wisdom.

Greek:- *“phrōnimōs”* [fron-ee-mos] discreet – cautious – practical skill.

Note:- While *“sōphōs”* is the insight into the true nature of things, *“phrōnimōs”* is the ability to discern modes of action with a view to their results.

“Phrōnimōs” is the practical application of *“sōphōs”*.

James links true wisdom with love [agapé] God-given love.

James 3:17-18 [NIV] *“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.”*

Matthew 5:9 [NIV] *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.”*

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 [NIV] *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.”*

When we attain the measure of love described in this scripture we will manifest the wisdom that James envisages.

Some aspects of God’s Wisdom

The ability to fulfil His Will [to get things done].

Example:- The promise and prophecy made to Abraham.

Genesis 15:13-16 [NIV] *“Then the LORD said to him, “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and ill-treated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterwards they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your fathers in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure.”*

How did God accomplish this?

Genesis 37:28 [NIV] *“So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.”*

Joseph sold to Ishmaelites as a slave who took him to Egypt and sold him on to one of Pharaoh's officials.

Genesis 41:41 [NIV] *“So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt.”*

Eventually Joseph was made Prime Minister of Egypt.

Exodus 1:8 [NIV] *“Then a new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt.”*

Throughout the prophesied period of slavery God prepared Abraham's descendants and the Egyptian rulers to show His Power and Sovereignty.

Exodus 2:1-10 [NIV] *“Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the river bank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said. Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?” “Yes, go,” she answered. And the girl went and got the baby's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”*

Moses prepared to lead Abraham's descendants out of captivity into Promised Land.

God often hides the details of His Plans until the last moment

Abraham, Joseph and Moses are a perfect example of this. Nobody involved had a clue that God's Plan was working out perfectly and right on time.

God never reveals all He knows is going to happen; He gives us bits and pieces a day at a time.

We need to remember this is also true now.

- a) Regarding how He deals with us as individuals.
- b) Regarding the future of His Church.
- c) Regarding dealing with the problem of evil.

This hiding of His wise planning by God is deliberately designed to keep us humble.

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 [NIV] *“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness”; and again, “The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”*

Unless we allow God to have the initiative all our plans will come to nothing.

Romans 8:14 [NIV] *“because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”*

We are led by the Holy Spirit. We **don't** ask the Holy Spirit to follow us and our plans to do God's Work.

Daniel 4:35 [NIV] *“All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No-one can hold back his hand or say to him: “What have you done?”*”

God is sovereign, He is the Creator and sustainer and Rules over all He has created.

God reveals His Will and His Wisdom in a way that offends the most sophisticated people

2 Kings 5:10-11 [NIV] *“Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, “Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed.” But Naaman went away angry and said, “I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy.”*”

God often offends the mind to reach the heart.

Isaiah 29:14 [NIV] *“Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish.”*

Compared to God’s Wisdom, our wisdom is non-existent.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 [NIV] *“Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are so that no-one may boast before him.”*

God chooses His elect, those whom He is going to use from among ordinary people, those whom we least expect God to use.

1 Samuel 16:7 [NIV] *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”*

God in His great wisdom can read the heart and knows in advance the future potential of a person, **[Psalms 139:1-16]**.

Isaiah 55:8-9 [NIV] *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

God in His Wisdom is not comparable to us in any way.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

Here is a good example of the difference between our wisdom and God’s. Just how much wisdom is found in a lump of clay in comparison to the craftsman moulding the clay into something useful or decorative.

God's Wisdom in action

God's Wisdom in creation

Proverbs 3:19 [NIV] *“By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;”*

Psalms 104:24 [NIV] *“How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.”*

Jeremiah 10:12 [NIV] *“But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.”*

God's Wisdom in our redemption

God created us and planned our redemption in four stages.

1) Able to sin

Genesis 2:16-17 [NIV] *“And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

Given the choice to sin.

2) Not able not to sin

Romans 6:20-21 [NIV] *“When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!”*

We sinned and lost our free will, became slaves to sin.

3) Able not to sin

Acts 26:18 [NIV] *“...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”*

Conversion gives us the power to turn from sinning.

4) Not able to sin

Romans 8:30 [NIV] *“And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.”*

When we are glorified we will be in a condition to never sin again.

God in His Wisdom anticipated the “fall” of Adam and Eve.

God knew that all people would follow Adam's and Eve's example and “fall” into sin.

1 Peter 1:18-20 [NIV] *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.”*

Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that was chosen for our redemption before the world, including Adam and Eve, were created, at the perfect time God sent His Son to redeem all people.

Galatians 4:4 [NIV] *“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law...”*

God in His great wisdom had prepared a people and a society to be the perfect background for this great act of redemption.

God’s manner of saving people took everybody by surprise, but it shouldn’t have done so.

The law with its sacrificial system paved the way, yet the very “people of the law”, who were looking for a Messiah, rejected Jesus.

God in His Great Wisdom decreed that only believers would be saved

John 3:16 [NIV] *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **whoever believes in him** shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

The sacrifice that Jesus made, being God, as well as a human being able to die and shed blood, was worth far more than all who will ever live.

But instead of universal salvation God chose to grant salvation only to those who believe in what Jesus Christ’s death does for us.

Romans 3:23-26 [NIV] *“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished, he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”*

God’s justice is vindicated by our accepting the blood sacrifice of Jesus in a substitute for our own deserved death.

God in His Wisdom chose the foolishness of preaching to bring people to salvation by faith

1 Corinthians 1:21 [NIV] *“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”*

Both the message and the method of presenting it are illogical, foolishness to ordinary people. Only through the Sovereign Will of God can both become tools of salvation.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 [NIV] *“However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him”, but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man’s*

judgment: “For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.”

God chooses who and when the Holy Spirit will turn “foolishness” into “wisdom”, His Wisdom.

God in His Wisdom made redemption a progressive revelation

Genesis 3:15, 21 [NIV] “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” ... **“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”**

The plan of salvation first revealed by God to His children.

God covered the sin of Adam and Eve with the skin of an animal [possibly a lamb], that had to shed its blood for God to forgive them, and not demand their shed blood.

Genesis 4:1-7 [NIV] “Adam lay with his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.” Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”

The basic rudiments of the gospel message were given to Cain and Abel. Abel accepted the gospel message, Cain rejected it; this was shown by what they decided to offer as a sacrifice.

Genesis 9:1-17 [NIV] “Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea; they are given into your hands. Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. “But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. And for your lifeblood I will surely demand an accounting. I will demand an accounting from every animal. And from each man, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of his fellow man. **“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.”** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you-- the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-- every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.” So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

The covenant that God made with Noah pre-figured the covenant God would make with Abraham.

Faith and obedience without physical sight were involved in this covenant.

Galatians 3:8 [NIV] *“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.”*

The full gospel message was given to Abraham.

The entrance of the law

Galatians 3:19 [NIV] *“What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come.”*

The law was introduced because of the sins of Israel.

Galatians 3:23 [NIV] *“Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed.”*

The law was a temporary measure to prepare for the coming of the Redeemer, pointing towards Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 10:1 [NIV] *“The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship.”*

Once the real person appears we transfer our focus from the shadow, which only announced their approach to the person themselves, that is our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The emergence of the prophets

Because the priesthood became corrupt God raised up prophets with a twofold message.

- a) Condemning the sin that abounded.
- b) Foretelling of the coming of a Redeemer to free them from the slavery of sin.

We must preach this same twofold message to this generation where the same conditions exist.

The ministry of Jesus

Matthew 5:17 [NIV] *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”*

This was the message that Jesus preached, He Himself was the fulfilment of the law and the prophets.

Jesus fulfilled His message by His supreme work. His sacrificial death, His resurrection, ascension and intercession as our High Priest.

The present ministry of the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:49 [NIV] *“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

The Holy Spirit is the key that unlocks our understanding of all that has preceded in the progressive plan of salvation and empowers us to continue to preach the message Jesus preached.

Acts 2:1-4 [NIV] *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

The Holy Spirit interpreted the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus, and the reason for Jesus’ coming was made clear.

The result was the emergence of the Church, the body of Christ on earth.

Colossians 1:18 [NIV] *“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.”*

The teaching of the apostles

The Holy Spirit inspired the final and complete revelation of God through the apostles.

The canon of scripture

The Old Testament was augmented by the equally inspired writings of the New Testament to complete the revelation of God.

The Christian Bible is God’s final revelation

The Christian Bible is the revealed wisdom of God.

The Christian Bible tells us all we need to know about God [if not all we would like to know about God].

Isaiah 46:10 [NIV] *“I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.”*

It is from the Christian Bible we learn about the Wisdom of God, the beginning and the end goal of God’s exercising His Wisdom.

By this we conclude that God knows everything and that He never makes a mistake.

The wisdom literature of the Christian Bible

All the Christian Bible is “*wisdom literature*” but some books have become known specifically as “*wisdom literature*”, Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Wisdom literature is basically of two types

1 Proverbial wisdom

The book of Proverbs is mainly short, pithy sayings that are rules for personal happiness and welfare.

2 Speculative wisdom

The books of Job and Ecclesiastes reveal this type of wisdom.

These delve into the problems such as the meaning of our existence and the relationship between God and His created children. These books are practical study of living, life and especially our approach to suffering.

Ecclesiastes does this in the form of monologues.

Job is in a dialogue form.

What kind of wisdom can we learn from this “*wisdom literature*”?

Note:- “*Wisdom literature*” will not make a lot of sense without our knowledge of the gospel message and the aid of the Holy Spirit.

Job:-

Why do the righteous suffer?

Job was a righteous man yet He suffered terribly.

His “*friends*” reflected the “*health and wealth gospel*” of their day, their thinking was if one is Holy we will not suffer but prosper.

Job therefore in their eyes must be guilty of great sins.

Job’s “*righteousness*” became self-righteousness and God rebuked him.

Job 42:5-10 [NIV] “*My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.*” After the LORD had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “*I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has.*” So Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite did what the LORD told them; and the LORD accepted Job’s prayer. After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.”

Job was relieved of his suffering but not until he repented and prayed for his friends.

The message of the book of Job.

- a) God’s hidden wisdom regarding suffering.
- b) Job’s conclusion that no purpose of God can be thwarted.

Job 42:2 [NIV] “*I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.*”

Ecclesiastes:-

The meaninglessness of life without God.

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 [NIV] *“The words of the Teacher, son of David, king of Jerusalem: “Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”*
Written by Solomon who had “everything” but found it all to be “vanity”. [Emptiness, meaninglessness, transitory and unsatisfactory]

Behind this “vanity” there are found timeless bits of wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 [NIV] *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”*

There is a time for everything and it is God who makes life beautiful in His way.

Ecclesiastes 4:4 [NIV] *“And I saw that all labour and all achievement spring from man’s envy of his neighbour. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”*

All our labour and achievements spring from our envy of others [trying to “keep up with the Jones’]

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9 [NIV] *“The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride. Do not be quickly provoked in your spirit, for anger resides in the lap of fools.”*

Anger is folly, patience is wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 [NIV] *“I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them.”*

We really do **not** have full control of our lives and certainly **no control** over the time of our death.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [NIV] *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

Without God in our lives there is no purpose to life and no hope of a future life after death.

Proverbs:- The way to happy living.

Proverbs 1:7 [NIV] *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”*

If we don’t respect God as God and live as if God is God any wisdom we may feel we have is really foolishness.

Proverbs 1:20-23 [NIV] *“Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: “How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.”*

Rejecting Godly Wisdom is just foolishness.

Proverbs is a book full of wise and timeless sayings.

To read and follow these words will be to incorporate some of the very Wisdom of God into our lives.

“A proverb a day keeps the devil at bay!”

Conclusion

The gift of wisdom means having the mind of God in any situation.

James 1:5 [NIV] *“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”*

Ask for wisdom then allow the Holy Spirit to open our minds to accept and to retain it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 [NIV] *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

When we acknowledge God in all our ways and don't rely on our own thoughts and understanding, nothing ultimately will “*go wrong*” for we will be in the hands of a Sovereign God.