

The Wisdom of God

Introduction

- A. Knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are often related in the Bible. The first refers to that which is known (the content of mind), the second to the choice of the best goals and the means to achieve them, and the third to the discernment to continually use what is known by making such choices.
- B. All of us have known what should be done, what choices should be made, and yet we failed in the area of understanding (application). As wisdom would imply a twofold choice, so understanding would be characterized by the "fear of God" (the reason why choices should be made) and "love"¹ (the motivation for making such decisions).
- C. In the true and living God these three are but facets of His infinite perfection. He knows all things, He makes the right choices, and continually does so. All of this comes to the Christian as a great comfort.

I. The Biblical Statements Regarding the Wisdom and Understanding of God.

- A. His wisdom and understanding are infinite.

Great is our Lord, and of great power, his understanding is infinite.
Psalm 147:5

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. Isaiah 40:28

Observation: These verses teach us that God's ability to know and to do that which is right and best - is without limitation.

- B. God is praised for His knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! Romans 11:33

Observation: In this chapter Paul described the working of God with both Jews and Gentiles. He concludes with this text of praise, the question of who could "counsel God", and stating that He alone is worthy of all glory. (See Rom. 16:27; I Tim. 1:17; Jude 25)

II. The Illustrations Regarding the Wisdom and Understanding of God.

- A. The example of creation.

He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding. Jeremiah 51:15
(See Psalm 104:24; 136:5; Prov. 3:19; Jeremiah 10:12)

Observation: The greatness of the universe, the power of the atom, the coherence and stability of "laws of creation", and the ability of man to think, choose, evaluate, and invent all point to the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of our Maker.

If the thickness of this page represented the distance of the earth to the sun (93,000,000 miles), then the distance of the nearest star would require a stack of this paper 71 feet high. The diameter of our own small galaxy by the above measurement would require a stack of paper 310 miles high. To reach the edge of the known universe by the same measurement would require a pile of paper 31 million miles high. The 200 inch telescope on Mt. Palomar reveals as many as a million galaxies (each full of stars) in just the bowl of the Big Dipper.

If a drop of water were expanded to the size of our earth - the atoms in that water would only be the size of an orange.

B. The example of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2 (See Is. 9:6; I Cor. 1:24,30)

Observation: Every facet of our Savior's character and ministry reflected divine knowledge (content), wisdom (choices), and understanding (application).

C. The example of the plan of salvation.

To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Rom. 16:27

Observation: This verse is the conclusion of the book of Romans. All that it meant for Jesus Christ to come as the revelation of God, to be born into our race, and to die for us is here attributed to the wisdom of God.

III. The Application Regarding the Wisdom and Understanding of God.

A. The exhortation.

Happy is the man that findeth Wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. Prov. 3:13 (See also 4:5,7; 10:13,23; 14:8; Eph. 5:5)

Observation: Almost all of the Proverbs are dedicated to this theme. From our experiences in life we would all agree to this priority of wisdom and understanding.

B. The instruction.

The entrance of thy words giveth light - it giveth understanding unto the simple. Psalm 119:130

So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding. Yea, if thou criest after knowledge ... Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom, out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:2-6

Observation: God's revelation is the source of our knowledge, wisdom, and understanding; The choice and results largely rest with us!

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