

## Proverbs 3:13-26

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### The Benefits of “finding” Wisdom

- I. The Overall Purpose of Proverbs - Simply stated is to gain wisdom. As Don has already stated, “wise” as an adjective, “wisdom” as a noun, and “to be wise” as a verb” altogether occurs 102 times in Proverbs. This is 1/3 of it’s uses over the whole OT.
- II. Why the need for such a strong emphasis on obtaining wisdom?
  - A. Consider the context for every human being that has ever existed from any age in history, country, culture, or background. Bottomline, all of humanity, regardless of who you are, where you live, or what you believe, are influenced and often controlled by 3 sources/enemies;
    1. The World
      - a. We live in a fallen world that is cursed and full of sin, temptation, and many pitfalls.
      - b. It is totally anti God and anti Christ.
      - c. We are constantly bombarded by flawed, deceitful “worldly wisdom” that is contrary to godly/biblical wisdom.
        - 1Cor.1:17-25
        - I Cor.2:6-8
        - 1Cor. 3:18-23
      - d. Worldly wisdom led the “rulers of this age” to execute Jesus. Today, it leads people to commit abortions, abandon God’s design for marriage, to get God and anything having to do with Him out of schools and out of Gov’t. It leads people to go to great lengths to try and change their gender.
        - There is also a more subtle type of worldly wisdom that often infiltrates the church.....like allowing our culture to determine some of our form or function (trying to conduct the worship service to appeal to the flesh/senses).
    2. The Flesh

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- a. Along with the fallen world and it's system that we live in, each of us are also housed in a fallen human body that has a "flesh" attached to it. Paul calls it "indwelling sin".
- b. Do you remember the old American Express travelers checks slogan? "Don't leave home without them"? Well, we literally follow that when it comes to the indwelling sin that resides in these fallen human bodies....we never go anywhere without it!!!
- c. Of our 3 enemies, this is the only one that is internal, and so is constantly there seeking to influence and control us on a daily basis.

- This is the whole reason why God said what He said in Gen.6:5-6

- Also look at Jer.17:9

- Rom.7:15-20

### 3. The Devil

a. Lastly, we have the devil who is constantly with his many minions seeking to use the world, our flesh, and circumstances to seek to lie and deceive us. We are constantly bombarded with lies in this world. - Jn.8:44

b. The predicament that humanity is in, is exactly the same as Israel at the Red Sea.

- They had the sea before them, mountains on the sides, and the Egyptian army bearing down from behind. There would have been no way that they could have ever overcome any of these things on their own.

- We too are totally surrounded by our enemies and we are absolutely hopeless within ourselves to overcome any one of them.

- If we DON'T obtain God's divine intervention by means of engaging in His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, we are doomed!! We will march right on into destruction. Example of sheep

- Our worldly wisdom will lead us right into every type of destruction.

B. It's grasping this concept then of our human context that I think really gives meaning to Prov.1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom".

1. When you recognize how hopeless, helpless, and deceived you are in and of yourself, you are then prepared to recognize your desperate need of God and His every provision both physically and spiritually
2. And when you have that perspective of how desperately you need God.....that's the beginning of wisdom.....then you are on the right path and headed in the right direction to engage in His wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
3. Being brought to this proper perspective then, I think enables us to appreciate and value the message of tonight's section in Prov.3:13-26

### III. The Benefits of Finding Wisdom

- A. Proverbs 3:13-26 - READ (Ps.1 is a great parallel passage and I think it's really interesting to consider the fact that if David wrote psalm 1 which sounds a lot like the message of proverbs, and Solomon wrote most of the proverbs, then there is evidence that David did with Solomon what it appears that Solomon is seeking to do with his sons in proverbs.
  1. So now with our context set, we are prepared to better recognize the importance and the value of finding true godly wisdom.
  2. First, I would break this passage down into just two main points;
    - a. The purpose of this section, to state the importance of finding wisdom.
    - b. Second, is the rest of the passage that quantifies the blessing that wisdom will bestow upon all who find her. So, let's just walk through the verses.
- B. So, vs.13 states, "Happy is the man who finds wisdom and the man who finds understanding". This word happy means blessed.
  1. So, here he is making a statement about the importance of finding wisdom, that you will be made happy/blessed in finding it. Then, the rest of the verses, he goes on to tell us how finding wisdom will become a blessing to us.
    - a. At this point, I think it's also important to talk more about this being made happy or blessed. In order to be blessed by finding wisdom, you have to have a certain set of values in place, or you won't even be able to appreciate the benefits of finding wisdom. You won't think you need it or you may think that you already have it.

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- b. Earlier we quoted Jer.17:9, but, if you back up and look at vs.5-8 I think we can see an example of what I am talking about - Jer.17:5-8
  - i. Vs.6 - “cannot see when the good comes”. When we are in the flesh, we are self centered. We want what we want more than we want God Himself. In the flesh, our only use for God is in terms of what we want from Him.
    - When a little kid asks for a cupcake 5 minutes before dinner and the parent says no, that answer is a good, right, and wise answer, but in most cases the child won't recognize it as being good and wise for they are too self centered at that point only wanting what they want.
  - ii. And so, when God in His love and wisdom, allows us for our own good and spiritual growth, to go through undesirable circumstances, if we are in the flesh, we will be self centered and it will be impossible for us to see “the good” that He is bringing about. At that point we haven't “found wisdom”, we aren't desiring wisdom and therefore are not in a place to even be able to value the benefits of the wisdom that He desires us to become engaged in.
  - iii. So, I don't think it's accurate to think that we can just flip a switch and begin to desire to find wisdom, but the enablement to even have the proper value system in place will come only as we walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh. Philippians calls this, “having the mind of Christ”.
    - We can know in our minds that we need wisdom and ask for it, but that seeking for wisdom is not the same as when you come to the place of recognizing how desperate you are for it. An example of this is in our physical hunger....there is a difference in how we pursue food when we are just grazing because we are bored....and when we sit down for a full meat and potatoes meal after doing a lot of physical work. Your hunger isn't the same and your food consumption isn't the same.
    - So it is in hungering for this wisdom, the truth, that leads to spiritual growth. Our perspective of our context, our perspective of our own spiritual lives plays a major part in how hungry we are for these things.

- This is exactly what we see in James 1:2-5 - notice the progression here....basically, we need to rejoice in trials because of how they are used by God to (put it simply) “conform us to the image of Christ”....
  - But, often times, we don't have the right perspective of these trials and rather than rejoicing in them, we scheme and beg God to take them away....it's in this context of not recognizing the value of what God is accomplishing that James encourages us in vs.5 to ask God for wisdom.....the ability to see my trials from His point of view and thereby become enabled to embrace and rejoice in the work that He is doing through them.
- iv. A really good comparison here for this point is in comparing Israel's response to their experiences in the wilderness with Jesus' response to His experiences in taking on the form of a man to die for the world.
- Israel - Exodus 13:17-18;14:10-12; 16:1-3; 17:1-3; 31:18-32:4 and Numbers 14:1-4, 11; 20:1-5; 21:4-5
  - God had great and amazing things in store for Israel. His promise was to lead them out of slavery and into a “promised land flowing with milk and honey”....meaning a place of abundance where their every need would be met.
  - He gave them an unbelievable display of not only his power, but also of His heart for them in the way that He led them out of Egypt.
  - But, Israel was so self centered and short sighted, that they would lose sight of God's promises and purposes at every hardship of difficulty that came up along the way.
  - Jesus - Hebrews 12:1-2
  - Apply this to our context, this world is no longer our home, but has become our wilderness. Our hope is not in a happy, long, stress free life in this current world. But, our hope is in the place that He promised that He is preparing for us in the new heavens and the new earth.....
  - as we go through this life, it's the hope and joy of looking forward to an eternity in the presence of Christ in the place that He is preparing for us, that enables us to accept and endure the hardships and difficulties

that come with living in a fallen world.....This is the wisdom that I believe we are talking about here in this passage....

- The wisdom of seeing things from God's point of view, and eternal point of view.
- Example of some of our overseas trips - In some places the circumstances are really rough.....but, because I know I am only there for a week, knowing that I will soon be home eating delicious Thai food and sleeping in my own bed again, gives me the ability to endure while I'm there. During that week, I don't have to be obsessed with trying to change my circumstances, for it will soon be over.
- Now when we lived in Thailand for 17 years and in a tribal village for 11 of those....then yeah, we bought some things that helped change our circumstances a bit, but, the decisions we made, were all made in light of the goal of one day moving out and leaving the church on it's own. We knew we wouldn't spend the rest of our lives there and that shaped our perspective on the things that we had to endure.

C. Here in vs.14-15, his statement about the value of wisdom begins to narrow. In vs.13 it was a broad statement that you will be blessed if you find it.

1. Now, he sharpens the meaning of that a bit by contrasting it with some of the most valuable possessions on earth...gold, silver, precious stones, and anything else that you may desire on earth, and stating that finding wisdom is more valuable than all that this world contains.

- a. This is exactly what Jesus was saying in Mat.16:24-26...."what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul".

D. Vs.16-18 then, he begins to tell us why nothing that you could ever desire in this world can compare in value to finding true godly/biblical wisdom. At first glance, it would appear that the writer is simply talking about the earthly benefits of finding wisdom, but, I think it's pretty clear that he's also talking about eternal benefits. And the more assured we become of the ETERNAL benefits, the more it will shape our earthly lives.

1. In vs.14-15, he tells us that the benefits of finding wisdom is more important than the earthly riches that people treasure on this earth,

2. But, then follows it in vs.16 by saying that part of the benefit of wisdom is length of days and riches and honor.....so, which is it?
3. This is where the culture and time in history of the context that Solomon was writing to, Israel in the dispensation of law and our context of living in the dispensation of grace with the completed revelation of God must all be factored in to our interpretation and application.
  - a. Under the dispensation of law, look at God's promises to Israel in Dt.28:1-14 - basically, long life and earthly riches.
  - b. Under the dispensation of grace, look at God's promises to the church in terms of what we can expect to experience while seeking to live a godly life - 2Cor.4:16-18; 2Tim.3:10-12 -
  - c. But, the length of days and riches that He does promise us are spiritual and eternal - Jn.3:16; Jn.10:25-30; Rom.5:20-21; 6:23; Titus 1:2; 3:7 - Obviously there are tons of other passages that we could also turn to.
  - d. In terms of riches, let's first look at what Jesus said about Himself in Jn.16:15
    - i. Now look at Rom.8:15-17 - He is our Father, we are His children, and therefore, we are joint heirs with Christ.
    - ii. This is why Paul said in Eph.1:3, that we have been blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenliness.
    - iii. As an early church apostle and church planter, look at how Paul summarizes the focus of his ministry in Eph.3:8 - ...."that I should preach among the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ". That what we have been given in Christ and all that God has in store for us is unfathomable, incomprehensible, it's so much that it's inexhaustible.
    - iv. Look at 1Cor.2:6-12 - I think this passage really puts this whole proverbs passage together for us in our current context.....
    - v. Finding the "hidden wisdom" of God that He ordained before the ages, will lead us to receiving and experiencing things that God has in store for us that are so wonderful and beyond our imagination that He describes it as, "things which eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it ever entered into the heart of man"....

- vi. And notice he finishes this passage with vs.12 - That it's the HS's role to reveal to us these things that have been freely given to us by God!!! The more He does that, the more confident we become in the amazing things that He has in store for us, the more enabled we will become to walk in true biblical wisdom here and now, and this is where vs.17-18 come in.
- Ways of pleasantness, paths of peace, it being a tree of life to you, I believe are all speaking of how this mindset will shape and affect our daily lives.
  - The ability to be pleasant and at peace in the midst of hardship and difficulty comes from having hope in something....
  - The other thing he said, is that, finding wisdom, or having this seeing things from God's point of view mindset, will be a tree life to you. A great passage that I think really explains this in our context is 2Peter1:2-4
  - When our hope is not being determined by God's "great and precious" promises that He has in store for us, our mind, will, and emotions becomes corrupted by "all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1Jn.2:16).
  - But, Peter says, when our perspective is being determined by an assurance of God's great and precious promises, then this enables us to "escape the corruption that is in the world"....Again, this is the wisdom that I believe this passage is talking about.
- vii. look at Prov.3:21-26. Again, he is restating the earthly benefit that this mindset will cause in our daily lives.
- vs.22 - is speaking of encouragement to our soul and adornment to our countenance or presence.....when is our soul discouraged? When are we acting in ways that are uncomely? When we are responding and controlled by indwelling sin.
  - vs.23 - Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble.....It's discontentment and self centeredness that cause us to take unnecessary risks and that cause us to make ungodly decisions that trip us up so to speak. It doesn't mean that bad things will never happen to us, as vs.25 implies that they will. But, in terms of stumbling that is caused by us ourselves, is what he is talking about here.

- Here's a simple example....driving down the road and someone pulls out in front of me and I have to slam on my brakes etc.....my mindset at that time can and will affect whether my response is a "stumbling" and sin, or a continuing to walk in "wisdom" that is shaped by God's great and precious promises of who I am and where I am headed In Christ.
- vs.24 - When you lie down and can't sleep out of fear, what is the cause of that? Sometimes it comes from worrying about circumstances, how something is going to turn out....sometimes it's out of worrying about loved ones and the decisions they are making....sometimes it can be due to feeling guilty and condemned over things we have done or decisions we have made.....all of these things can be traced back to an inability to trust God and believe His promises. And if we aren't trusting God and believing His promises, then we haven't "found wisdom". We are not walking in the way of wisdom.
- vs.25-26 - We live in a fallen and sin cursed world, there are "terrors" that can come upon us suddenly. There is trouble that is brought into our lives by wicked people....but, if you have found wisdom, not the wisdom of the world, but the hidden wisdom of God which He ordained before the ages, then He will be your confidence.

#### IV. Where wisdom comes from

- A. Vs.19-20 are kind of stuck in the middle of this passage, I see it, as a reminder of Who the all-wise One is and where wisdom, knowledge and understanding comes from.
  1. He had already stated back in chapter 2:6, that "the Lord gives wisdom, from His mouth come knowledge and understanding".
  2. Creation is one of the greatest examples of the knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and power of God, and the intended purpose of the author is to wow the reader with His greatness in order to cause us to depend upon and trust in Him.
  3. The importance of what he says in vs.19-20 is revealed by the seriousness of his command in vs.21, "My son, do not lose sight of these".....do not lose sight of these facts about God and your desperate need of Him. By doing so you will be enabled to[[

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4. keep sound wisdom and discretion. And if you are keeping sound wisdom and discretion, it will affect your decisions, your actions and your perspectives.
5. Two last verses I'd like to throw in here are; Col.3:1-11; 2Cor.2:14-16

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# **Proverbs 3:13-26**

**The Benefits of “finding” wisdom**

June 29, 2020

## **Why the emphasis on obtaining wisdom?**

**The Human Context**

The World

The Flesh

The Devil

# The Human Context

## The World and it's wisdom

- 1Cor. 1:17-25 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- 1 Cor. 2:6-8 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- 1 Cor.3:18-23 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours; whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

# The Human Context

## The Flesh

- Gen.6:5-6 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart
- Jer. 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"
- Rom. 7:15-20 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

# The Human Context

## The Devil

- John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

# The Human Context

## The Benefits of finding Wisdom

- Proverbs 3:13-26
- Psalm 1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.

# “Happy is the man who finds wisdom”

“Blessed” is a better perspective

Jeremiah 17:5-8 Thus says the Lord:  
“Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
And makes flesh his strength,  
Whose heart departs from the Lord.  
For he shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
And shall not see when good comes,  
But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness,  
In a salt land which is not inhabited.  
“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
And whose hope is the Lord.  
For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spreads out its roots by the river,  
And will not fear when heat comes;  
But its leaf will be green,  
And will not be anxious in the year of drought,  
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

James 1:2-5 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

## **In the Wilderness**

### **Israel's response**

- Exodus 13:17-18; 14:10-12; 16:1-3; 17:1-3; 31:18-32:4 and Numbers 14:1-4, 11; 20:1-5; 21:4-5

### **Jesus' response**

- Heb. 12:1-2

## Prov. 3:16-18

### Not just earthly benefits, but eternal

- The more assured we become of the eternal benefits, the it will shape our earthly lives

## 2 different Dispensations

### Israel under the law

- Dt.28:1-14 Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. "The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you. "The Lord will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the Lord your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you. And the Lord will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the Lord swore to your fathers to give you. The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the Lord will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them. So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right or the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

## 2 different Dispensations

### The Church under grace

- 2Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- 2Tim. 3:10-12 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

## Wisdom leads to the “length of days”

### Physical for Israel, Spiritual for the church

- Jn.3:16
- Jn.10:25-30 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father’s name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.
- Rom.5:20-21 Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom.6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Titus 1:2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began

## Wisdom leads to “Riches”

### Earthly for Israel, Spiritual for the church

- Jn.16:15 - All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.
- Rom.8:15-17 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.
- Eph.1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ
- Eph. 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ

1Cor.2:6-12 However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

2Peter 1:2-4 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

## **Where Wisdom comes from**

### **Proverbs 3:19-20**

- Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding

Col.3:1-11 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

2Cor.2:14-16 Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things?