## The Woes of Worldly Wisdom 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

- I. Intro
  - Anecdote
  - Bible
    - When it comes to the canon of the Holy Bible we find 66 individual books.
      - It's also interesting to note that the Bible was written by more that 40 different authors...
        - ...over the course of 2,000 years on three different continents with three distinct languages.
          - I should also point out that the Bible is divided into two testaments which include the Old and the New.
            - The Old Testament is also divided into four distinct divisions which are identified as...
              - ...the Law the Prophets the Historical and the Wisdom books.
                - And within the wisdom section we find Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon.
  - Wisdom
    - Now as we consider this section of the Old Testament which is commonly called the wisdom books...
      - ...there should be no doubt that the wisdom of God is clearly revealed within those five books.
        - At the same time I must also insist that the wisdom of God has been clearly revealed in all 66 books of the Bible.

- It's for this reason that Paul assured pastor Timothy that All Scripture is given by inspiration of God...
  - ...and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...
    - ...that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
      - And what this means is that those who want to walk in the wisdom of God should spend time studying His holy word.
- II. Outline
  - Points
  - Woes
    - At the same time it's crucial for Christians to understand the difference between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of this world.
      - one reason why is because the wisdom of this world will always lead us into many woeful decisions.
        - And in order to grasp the woes of worldly wisdom we're going to consider the warning that Paul presented to the church in Corinth.
          - And as we study the scriptures before us the morning we'll begin to see that...
            - 1. ... The Wisdom of this World is Dangerous
            - 2. ... The Wisdom of this World is Fallacious
            - 3. ... The Wisdom of this World is Pretentious
              - With this as our outline let's open our Bibles to 1st Corinthians chapter 3...

- ...where we find Paul warning the Christians in Corinth about the Woes of Worldly Wisdom.
- III. Dangerous
  - Set up
  - Context
    - As we make our way to the third chapter of 1st Corinthians I wanna take some time to put our text - back into it's context.
      - It's important to remember that Paul began this book by helping his audience to understand the difference...
        - ...between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of this world.
          - And according to Paul the wisdom of this world is insufficient for comprehending the wisdom of God.
            - The reason why is due to the fact that God had made foolish the wisdom of this world.
              - What's even worse is that the wisdom of this world will also result in the dangerous condition of self-deception.
                - With this as our focus let's pick up our study of 1st Corinthians 3 look with me beginning there at verse 18 where Paul declared...

## Text

1Co 3:18 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.

1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

1Co 3:20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

1Co 3:21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:

1Co 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.
1Co 3:23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- Self-deception
  - Here in the final section of this chapter we find Paul connecting the dots between the wisdom of this world...
    - ...and the self-deception that can lead people into a life of self-destruction.
      - In order to grasp this issue it'll help you to know that the word deception - found there in the beginning of verse 18...
        - ...was translated from a Greek word which was used of those who are beguiled by a beautiful lie.
          - The same word was also used of those who are seduced by something that fails to correspond to reality.
            - And knowing how easy it is for us to be deceived Paul presented several warnings about this issue.
- Kingdom
  - For example it's in the sixth chapter of this same epistle where Paul asked...

1Co 6:9a Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

- From this we can see that Paul was concerned that the Christians in Corinth might be deceived...
  - ...concerning the question about who will inherit the kingdom of God.
    - And it's for this reason that he assured them that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- In other words those who reject the imputation of Christ's righteousness will not enter the kingdom of God.
  - And it's sad to say that there are many who are deceived about this doctrine.
- Habits
  - It's also in the 15th chapter of this epistle where Paul declared...

1Co 15:33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

- Here again we find Paul helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
  - ...those who surround themselves with evil company - will end up being led astray by their immoral influencers.
    - Sadly there are many Christians who are being deceived by the unbelievers in their sphere of influence...
      - ...and the reason why is because they don't really believe that Evil company corrupts good habits.
        - And it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to realize that the evil company we keep will corrupt our good habits.
- Reap
  - Paul also took the time to inform us that we will reap the rotten fruit of the sinful seeds that we so - it's Galatians 6 verse 7 where he declared...

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

- According to Paul the seeds we sow into the soil of our lives today will eventually produce fruit.
  - This not only includes the fruits of righteousness for those who are sowing the seed of God's word...

- ...but this also includes the rotten fruits of the flesh for those who sow sinful seed into the soil of their lives
  - It's for this reason that Paul encouraged the Christians at the church in Galatia to realize that...
    - ...those who think they can sow sinful seed into the soil of their lives and NOT reap the rotten fruit have been deceived.
- Empty
  - Paul also warned the Christians in Ephesus about those who would try to deceive them with the empty words of false doctrines.
    - It's in Ephesians chapter 5 - verse 6 where Paul declared...

Eph 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

- Here in this verse we find Paul warning the Christians in Ephesus...
  - ...about the false teachers who were trying to deceive them with words that were devoid of truth.
    - And as we consider this word of warning it's crucial for every Christian to realize that...
      - ...the 21st century church is filled with false teachers who are deceiving the disciples of Christ.
        - That being the case we will all do well to test every teaching according to the word of God.
- Self-Deceived
  - At the same time - we must also heed the warning that Paul presented here in our text today.

- With this as our focus let's take another look there at the beginning of verse 18 where he declared: "Let no one deceive himself..."
  - In other words we should not only be on guard against the false teachers who are deceiving people with doctrines of demons...
    - ...but we must also be on guard against the dilemma of self-deception.
      - Just to be clear self-deception is a universal phenomenon that impacts believers and unbelievers alike.
        - And in order to understand why self-deception is so ubiquitous we should take some time to consider the causes.
- Causes
  - The fact is the phenomenon of self-deception can be caused by many different factors.
    - Many people are self-deceived simply because of the wishful thinking that leads them to replace reality with fantasy.
      - Then there are those who are self-deceived because of their own ignorance.
        - Self-deception can be caused by the pride of personal hypocrisy...
          - ...and not only that but Self-deception can also be caused by an ego driven delusion.
            - Without debate Self-deception is a multifaceted dilemma that can be caused by many different factors.
              - At the same time I must insist that the root cause of self-deception is found in the selfish desires of our sinful hearts.
  - Heart

• Let's consider how the prophet Jeremiah put it - in the 17th chapter of his book - it's verse 9 - where he declared...

Jer 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

- When it comes to the dilemma of self-deception it's the depraved desires of our own hearts...
  - ...that leads people down the broad road that leads to destruction.
    - And while it's not uncommon for those who think they are wise to encourage us to follow the desires of our hearts...
      - ...it's crucial for every Christian to realize that this is nothing more than worldly wisdom...
        - ...which is followed by those who are on the dangerous path of self-deception.
- Wise
  - It's for this reason that Paul encouraged us to avoid the worldly wisdom that causes self-deception.
    - Let's consider again how he put it here in 1st Corinthians chapter 3 look with me again there at verse 18 where Paul declared...

1Co 3:18 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.

- In other words those who have acquired the wisdom of this world should make sure that they remember...
  - ...God has exposed the foolishness of this world's wisdom through the divine wisdom that the Lord has revealed in His holy word.

- And while the wisdom of this world will always seem like the best plan for our lives...
  - ...I can assure you that those who follow the wisdom of this world will end up deceiving themselves.
    - It's for this reason that I encourage you to make sure that your worldview actually corresponds with God's word.
- Contrast
  - In order to make my case we should take a moment to consider the contrast
     between the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God.
    - The wisdom of this world will lead us to believe that the selfish pursuit of personal pleasure is the fast-track to fulfillment.
      - And in contrast to this the wisdom of God will lead us to realize that true happiness is based on self-sacrifice.
        - The wisdom of this world will lead us to build our own kingdom in order to leave a legacy in our own name...
          - ...while the wisdom of God will lead us to accomplish build up the kingdom of God in the name of Jesus Christ.
            - The wisdom of this world will lead us down the broad road that leads to destruction...
              - ...while the wisdom of God leads us down the narrow path of righteousness.
- Fool
  - Now as we consider how the wisdom of this world and the wisdom of God are diametrically opposed...
    - ...it's no wonder that Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to become fools so that they might become wise.

- Now this is not to suggest that Christians should act like fools...
  - ...no instead we should reject the wisdom of this world so that we can develop a Biblical worldview which is truly wise.
    - And while the people of this world will think that we are foolish for following Jesus...
      - ...we can rejoice in knowing that we walking in the wisdom of God.
        - Sadly those who continue to embrace the wisdom of this world will end up deceiving themselves.
- Application
- Dangerous
  - And listen those who deceive themselves are traveling a dangerous path of self-destruction.
    - Remember it's in Galatians chapter 6 verses 7 and 8 where Paul declared...

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

- Christian listen those who continuing sowing sinful seeds into the soil of their hearts...
  - ...will eventually reap the rotten fruit of corruption which is sure to destroy the lives of those who are self-deceived.
    - That being the case I encourage every Christian to reject the wisdom of this world...

- ...so that we can become those believers who are walking in the light of the truth.
  - In this way we can avoid the dangerous path of self-deception.
- Transition
- Points
  - Now this brings us to our second point because listen...
    - 1. ...the Wisdom of this World is not only a Dangerous path of self-deception...
    - 2. ...but the Wisdom of this World is a Fallacious path of foolishness.
      - With this as our focus let's continue to consider the Woes of Worldly Wisdom that we find here in 1st Corinthians chapter 3.
        - Let's back up and begin reading again there at verse 18 where Paul declared...
- IV. Fallacious
  - Text

1Co 3:18 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.
1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";
1Co 3:20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

- Foolishness
  - Here in these verses we find Paul helping the Christians in Corinth to understand that...
    - ...the wisdom of this world is nothing more that foolishness in the eyes of God.

- And just to be clear that word foolishness found there in verse 19 was translated from a Greek word…
  - ...which can also be rendered silly stupid and absurd.
    - You might also like to know that the root word moros is the basis for our English word moron.
      - And what this means is that the things this word calls wisdom is moronic in the eyes of God.
- Job
  - Paul elaborated on his point by quoting a statement that Eliphaz presented to Job.
    - Look with me again there at verse 19 where he declared...

1Co 3:19 ...the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

- Here in the second half of this verse we find Paul quoting Job's friend Eliphaz...
  - ...as he described the way that God is able to expose the craftiness of those who think themselves to be wise.
    - And in order to grasp the context of the original quote it'll help you to know that...
      - ...Job was wrestling with the problem of evil as he struggled to understand why God was allowing him to suffer.
        - In response to Job's complaints Eliphaz was assuring Job that God is wiser than the craftiest men.
- Quote

 It's in Job chapter 5 - beginning at verse 12 - where Eliphaz informed Job that...

Job 5:12 He frustrates the devices of the crafty,
So that their hands cannot carry out their plans.
Job 5:13 He catches the wise in their own craftiness,
And the counsel of the cunning comes quickly upon them.
Job 5:14 They meet with darkness in the daytime,
And grope at noontime as in the night.

- In order to help Job understand why God was allowing him to suffer the trials and troubles of this world...
  - ...Eliphaz assured his friend that even the wisest men in the world can't fully grasp the infinite wisdom of God.
    - And while it's true that the finite mind of man is unable to grasp the infinite wisdom of God...
      - ...it's also true that the Lord knows the thoughts and the intents that are hidden in our hearts.
        - And it's for this reason that Eliphaz informed his friend that the Lord is able to catch the wise in their own craftiness...
          - ...as He turns the carnal counsel of the cunning back on themselves.
- Craftiness
  - Now as we consider the original context let's take another look at the point Paul was making here in verse 19 where he declared...

1Co 3:19 ...the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"

• Now - that word - craftiness - was translated from a Greek word - which can be used in a good sense...

- ...in reference to the prudence and the skill that is necessary for undertaking and accomplishing affairs.
  - In this context the word craftiness was being used in a negative sense...
    - ...in reference to those who engage in the fallacious arguments of worldly wisdom.
- Fallacies
  - Just to be clear the word fallacious refers to an error in reasoning that results in an illogical invalid argument.
    - And while I have no doubt that we all like to think that our ideas and opinions are all rooted in good reason...
      - ...we'll all do well to realize that those who rely on the wisdom of this world will often times fall for a fallacious point of view.
        - For example there are times when worldly wisdom leads us into the fallacy of a hasty generalization or a false dilemma.
          - Those who rely on worldly wisdom will engage in circular arguments or the slippery slope fallacy.
            - And I can't even tell you how many times I've heard Christians using the bandwagon fallacy or an appeal to authority.
- Futile
  - With all of this in mind let's consider the way that Paul addressed fallacious reasoning of worldly wisdom.
    - Look with me again there at 1st Corinthians chapter 3 it's verse 20 where Paul declared...

1Co 3:20 "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

- Christian listen the Lord knows the thoughts and the intents of our hearts.
  - And while we can rejoice in knowing that those who walk in the wisdom of God - will be empowered with righteous reasoning...
    - ...those who are walking in the wisdom of this world will end up engaging in the futility of Fallacious foolishness.
      - And just to be clear that word futile refers to that which is devoid of truth.
        - The same word was used of that which is purposeless and profitless.
- Useless
  - I like the way that scholars who created the Hebrew Names Version of the Bible rendered verse 20 they put it like this...

1Co 3:20 "The Lord knows the reasoning of the wise, that it is worthless."

- Christian listen those who are relying on the fallacious arguments of worldly wisdom....
  - ...are failing to realize that their thoughts and their decisions are worthless and therefore foolish.
    - And it's sad to say that there are many believers who are falling into the foolish trap of futile thinking...
      - ...and the reason why is because they are leaning on their own understanding.
        - That being the case I encourage every Christian to make sure that our thoughts and our plans are in line with the word of God.

Application

- Trust
  - I like the way that King Solomon put it in Proverbs chapter 3 it's verses
     5 thru 7 where he declared...

Pro 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.
Pro 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

- Christian listen those who lean on their own finite understanding will find themselves on the Fallacious path of foolishness...
  - ...and the reason why is because our finite minds tend to embrace the cunning craftiness of carnal counsel.
    - As a result many believers are suffering from the woes of worldly wisdom as they fall into the trap of faulty reasoning.
      - If this sounds like something you struggle with then I encourage you to trust in the LORD with all your heart...
        - ...by allowing our omniscient God to direct our paths according to His holy word.
- Transition
- Points
  - Now this brings us to our third and final point because listen...
    - 1. ...the Wisdom of this World is not only a Dangerous path of self-deception...
    - 2. ...and the Wisdom of this World is not only a Fallacious path of foolishness...

- 3. ...but the Wisdom of this World is also a Pretentious path of pride
  - With this as our focus let's continue to consider the Woes of Worldly Wisdom that we find here in 1st Corinthians chapter 3.
    - Let's back up and begin reading again there at verse 19 where Paul declared...
- V. Pretentious
  - Text

1Co 3:19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness";

1Co 3:20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

1Co 3:21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: 1Co 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.

1Co 3:23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- Contention
  - Here in these verses we find Paul addressing those who were boasting about their favorite faith leaders.
    - And just to be clear I should take a moment to remind you that it wears back in the beginning of this book...
      - ...when Paul challenged the carnal Christians in Corinth who were creating contentions...
        - ...as they divided the disciples of Christ in to schismatic factions.
          - Some were boasting about being the best believers because they were of Paul...
            - ...while others were boasting about being the disciples of Apollos," or Cephas.

- And it's for this reason that Paul assured them that their boasting was nothing more that a carnal contention.
- Carnal
  - Let's consider how he put it here in the third chapter of 1st Corinthians.
    - Let's back up and take another look at the challenge Paul presented beginning there at verse 4 where he declared...

1Co 3:4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?
1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?
1Co 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.
1Co 3:7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

- Here in these verses we find Paul helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
  - ...their schismatic factions were nothing more than carnal contentions.
    - The reason why was due to the fact that Paul Apollos and Cephas were all servants who were serving the same Savior.
      - That's right each of these men were simply serving our Savior according to the leading of the Lord.
        - And with that being the case there was no reason for them to caused divisions by boasting about their favorite leader.
- Boast
  - Let's consider again how Paul put it here in our text today look with me again there at verse 21 where he declared...

1Co 3:21a Therefore let no one boast in men.

- Now that word boast was translated from a Greek word which can also be rendered exult and glory.
  - And while the original Greek word can be used in a positive sense in reference to the glory of God...
    - ...the same Greek word can also be used in a negative sense and especially of those who struggle with Self-centered pride.
      - And in the context of this passage Paul was clearly referring to those who were attempting to exalt themselves...
        - ...by boasting or bragging about their connection with their favorite Bible teacher.
- Examples
  - I can't tell you how many times I've met Christians who attempt to exalt themselves by bragging about the Christian teachers they know.
    - Then there are those who boast about the books they've read and the authors they prefer.
      - And it's sad to say that there are many in the church today who are quick to create contentious divisions...
        - ...in the name of their favorite theologian like John Calvin or Jacobus Arminius.
          - And while these Christians are convinced that they are doing the work of God...
            - ...what they're failing to realize is that those who are boasting in men are actually engaging in pretentious pride.
- Pretentious
  - For the sake of clarity it'll help you to know that the Greek word which was rendered boast...

- ...was used of those who allowed their pride to turn them into pretentious people.
  - And just to be clear the word pretentious is used of those who make usually unjustified or excessive claims about this own importance.
    - Pretentious people pretend to be wiser than they actually are as they exaggerate about their education and knowledge.
      - Pretentious people are quick to insert their opinions even when they don't really know what they're talking about.
        - And it's sad to say that Pretentious people are those who boast about worldly wisdom which is foolishness in the eyes of God.
          - If this sound like something you struggle with then I encourage you to heed Paul's counsel.
- Christ's
  - With this as our focus let's consider the instructions that Paul presented beginning there at verse 21 where he declared...

1Co 3:21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:
1Co 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or
death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.
1Co 3:23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- Here in these verses we find Paul helping the Christians in Corinth to realize that...
  - ...those who were boasting about their connection with their favorite teachers were missing the main point.
    - And those who were attempting to exalt themselves in the name of Paul or Apollos or Cephas...
      - ...were failing to realize that their bragging was nothing more than pretentious pride.

- And the reason why was due to the fact that everything we have is as gift given by God.
- All Things
  - In order to explain my point let's take another look beginning there at verse 21 - where Paul declared...

1Co 3:21 Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours:
1Co 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or
death, or things present or things to come—all are yours.
1Co 3:23 And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

- As we take another look at these verses I'd like to turn this text on it's head - by pointing out that...
  - ...God the Father is the One Who sent Christ Jesus to die for our sins...
    - ...so that we could receive all of the benefits of believing in Him through life or death and in the things present or things to come.
      - In other words all of the everlasting blessings of God are provided to us through Jesus Christ.
        - And therefore those who boast should boast in the Lord Jesus alone.
- Differ
  - I like the way that Paul put it in the next chapter of this epistle look with me there at 1st Corinthians chapter 4 it's verse

1Co 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.

1Co 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

- Here in these verses we find Paul helping his audience to understand that...
  - ...there is no basis for believing that any one of us is better than another believer.
    - The reason why is due to the fact that everything we have including our natural and supernatural abilities...
      - ...are gifts that we have received from our Heavenly Father.
        - Therefore those who boast in men have allowed worldly Wisdom to lead them down the path of Pretentious pride
- Application
- Glory
  - If this sounds like something you struggle with then I encourage you to remember what the Lord said in Jeremiah chapter 9.
    - It's verses 23 and 24 where he declared...

Jer 9:23 "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; Jer 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

• Christian - listen - those who are truly wise will realize that - the glory belongs to God.

- And those who are mighty should also remember that God is the One Who deserves the glory because He formed us in the womb.
  - Those who are wealthy should give God the glory because all good gift come from the Father or lights.
    - And those who have been appointed and anointed with positions of leadership must remember that...
      - ...there is no authority except from God and the authorities that exist are appointed by God and so to God be the glory.
- Wisdom
  - To sum up this final point let's take a moment to compare and contrast the wisdom of God and the wisdom of this world.
    - Worldly Wisdom will lead us to become pretentious people who always boast about the important people we know...
      - ...while the wisdom of God will lead us to walk in humility as we boast in the Lord Jesus.
        - The wisdom of this world will lead us to brag about ourselves as we pretend to be more important than we actually are...
          - ...while the wisdom of God leads us to give all glory to the One Who alone deserves our praise.
            - The wisdom of this world leads us down the path of pretentious pride resulting in the sin of self-exaltation...
              - ...while the wisdom of God will lead us to exalt the One Who has given us all things present and the things yet to come.
- VI. Conclusion
- Wrap up

- Points
  - Now as we begin to wrap up this study I encourage you to remember that the wisdom of this world will result in many woes.
    - And just to be clear it'll help us to remember that...
      - 1. ...the Wisdom of this World is a Dangerous path of self-deception...
        - ...which will result in the self-destruction of those who will not repent.
      - 2. ...the Wisdom of this World is also a Fallacious path of foolishness...
        - ...which will cause Christians to fall into the foolish trap of futile thinking
      - 3....And finally the Wisdom of this World is a Pretentious path of pride...
        - ...which results in the sin of self-exaltation as believer boast in all the wrong things.
          - And with all of this being the case we will all do well to walk in the wisdom of God...
            - ...so that we can avoid the woes of worldly wisdom.