

Wisdom, Truth,
Reality *for times*
like These

March 17, 2024

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Wisdom = “*true and right*” combined with good judgment.

- Wisdom is knowledge guided by understanding
- Wisdom is thinking and living by God’s design
- Wisdom is the ability to apply knowledge to everyday life.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

Proverbs 4:1–6 (NIV) — 1 Listen, my sons, to a father’s instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. 2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. 3 For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. 4 Then he taught me, and he said to me, “Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live. 5 Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. 6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

Proverbs 4:7–13 (NIV) — 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. 8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. 9 She will give you a garland to grace your head and present you with a glorious crown.” 10 Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. 11 I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

2024 Is Time To Wise Up!

- Wisdom is not just having a high I.Q. or knowing facts
- Wisdom is Godly insight as to how life works.
- To be truly wise, know God. – He is wisdom's source

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

There Are Two Types Of Wisdom Alluded To In Scripture

- 1.) Godly wisdom and 2.) worldly wisdom

Isaiah 55:9 (NIV) — 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- True wisdom belongs to God and may be given by him alone.
- It will not be found by those who put confidence in worldly wisdom

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

The Fear Of The Lord Is The Starting Place To Acquire Wisdom

Proverbs 1:7 (NIV) — 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- The fear of the Lord is a deep and profound reverence and awe of God.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

We need wisdom for times like these

- So that we are going in the right direction
- So that we are making the right choices

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

The Wisdom of Heeding Godly warnings. Luke 12

- #1) v1-12 -- Warning of Hypocrisy -- the Yeast of Pharisees
- #2) v13-21 -- Warning of Greed & of depending on your wealth
- #3) v22-34 -- Warning of worry
- #4) v35-48 -- Warning to be watchful & ready
- #5) v49-53 -- Warning of the Division
- #6) v54-59 --Warning of Interpreting the Present Times

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Job 28 -- Where Is Wisdom Found?

- Job 28:12–13 (NIV) — 12 But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? 13 No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living.
- Job 28:23–24 (NIV) — 23 God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, 24 for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens.
- Job 28:28 (NIV) — 28 And he said to the human race, “The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.”

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Wisdom's choice is always going to be truth & reality

The world lives on and produces lies, distortions, deceptions

- Every crisis seems to present a new level of deception
- The aim seems to be to blur what is not true and not real into appearing to be true, reliable, and desirable

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

If we don't seek the Lord—for His wisdom and live our lives without it -- we will live to regret it

- When we come to life in need of direction and planning
- In the place of decisions and direction
- If we will fear and reverence the Lord – wait on Him.
- We can be outfitted with His wisdom – which will help us navigate the unseen icebergs under the surface of our lives

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

The wisdom that comes from God is not only knowledge – it is all about how to apply that knowledge for the best possible result.

- We Need To Diagnose & Determine What Is And What Is Not True & Real
- God Wants To Give Us His Wisdom to Enable Us In This Cause

- This Is Accurate And True Today In So Many Areas:
Medicine; Education; Politics; Families; Etc.

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

What is the truth? Where is wisdom found?

- The enemy of truth is untruth and lies
- The enemy of reality is deception and distortion

- Long term tenants of wisdom in our culture are being abandoned
- Things that have been effective and productive are thrown on the scrap pile and replaced with views of truth and reality that do not work, aren't true, and aren't real.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

A society that does not put a pronounced value on truth will be swept away , given over to full scale delusion and deception

Romans 1:18–21 (NIV) — 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Romans 1:22–25 (NIV) — 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

Delusion Will Attempt To Infect Every Part Of Our Culture In The Last Days

- There Will Be a Departure from The Truth, Reality & Wisdom
- Deception and illusion abound
- We must continue in the faith

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

These Are Days And Time In Which We Need To Know

- What Is Fake & What Is Real?
- What Is False & What Is True?
- What Is Man-made & What Is From God?
- What Is Wise & What Is Foolish?

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

Things Are Not Always As They Seem

- **(John 7:24 NIV)** Stop judging by mere appearances and make a right judgment.
- **Matthew 24:4 (NIV)** (4) Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.
- **Matthew 24:11 (NIV)** (11) and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.
- Jesus Said, "Watch Out!" Deceivers Will Come

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

Deception is a Primary Indicator That The Last Days Is Upon Us

- There Will Be An Attempt To Try And Persuade Every Part Of Society & Every People Group To Disregard God's Word, Truth & Wisdom

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

To Deceive =To Wander Off Course

- Moving away from the positions of morality and truth once held.
- **2 Thessalonians 2:10 (NIV)** (10) and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

To Be Deceived Is To depart -- to Move Away from A Solid Position Instead Adopting One That Is Unreliable Unpredictable and Dangerous

- When We See Deception Growing And Gaining Ground In Our Culture & Wisdom Under Attack -- Then We Know That The Lord's Return Is At Hand
- This is very much a picture of our age

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

If We Don't Value Truth – We Will End Up Settling For A Lie

Isaiah 5:20 (NIV) (20) Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Jesus Says “Watch Out”

- We are seeing people making foolish & unwise decisions about life
- This Can Be Very Dangerous & Destructive
- God Gives Us Truth -- He Gives Us Bible Prophecy Not To Scare Us But To Prepare Us

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

Why Do We Become Deceived & Give Into Deception?

- *We trust in what we are told without checking it out*
- *We don't know because we don't want to know*
- *Deceived due to our own apathy*
- *Because our eyes and ears are closed*
- *Our lack of real relationship with Christ*

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

- We need to hold on to the teaching of Jesus and know that it is His truth that will make us wise and set us free.

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

These Are Days Of Deception For Some—but, Not For Us

We Must:

- *Ask God For Wisdom & Believe He Will Give It*
- *Get To Know Why You Believe What You Believe*
- *Make Godly Decisions (As For Me And My House)*
- *We Must Not Waver In Our Faith And In Our Wisdom*
- *Make A Full Commitment*

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

We must decide that even if things continue to spiral downward

- Truth Belongs To God -- It Is Not Negotiable
- God's Wisdom, Truth, Word Does Not Change!

Wisdom. Truth. Reality

We Must Have Our Feet Planted Solidly On The Rock Of Jesus Christ

- We Must Have His Word Hidden In Our Heart, We Must Know It
- We Must Be Solid In Our Commitment Not To Move From It
- Even When Seduction And Delusion Lures Others Into Deception
- May We Be Strong In The Truth

Wisdom, Truth, Reality

If You Want Wisdom, You Will:

- Listen to God attentively (Matt. 13:9),
- Obey Him humbly (John 7:17),
- Ask Him sincerely (James 1:5),
- Seek Him diligently (Isa. 55:6–7),
- Treat it accordingly