

WISDOM

I. INTRO:

- a. Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: "To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her." -Proverbs 8:1-11 NIV
- b. Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore **get wisdom**. And in all your getting, get understanding. -Proverbs 4:7 NKJV

II. WHAT IS WISDOM?

- a. "Sophia" – knowledge which makes skillful and successful activity or performance possible.
- b. Knowledge vs. Wisdom
 - i. "Know it all" vs. "does it well"
 - ii. What and where vs. how and why
 - iii. Knowledge is impressively intellectual
 - iv. Wisdom is brilliantly practical
- c. **Wisdom is learning God's way of doing things.**

III. WHO SHOULD CARE ABOUT WISDOM?

- a. Those who want to be happy.

IV.

- i. *"Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding;" -Proverbs 3:13 NKJV*
- ii. "Happy" = blessed
- b. Those who want a successful future.

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- i. *"Eat honey, my son, for it is good; honey from the comb is sweet to your taste. Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."* -Proverbs 24:13-14 NIV
- c. Those who want to love themselves better.
 - i. *"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good."* -Proverbs 19:8 NKJV
 - ii. Psalm 119 "Fearfully and wonderfully made" translated "wonderfully complex" in NLT
 - iii. Anything complex needs wisdom to be stewarded well.
- d. **Wisdom doesn't guarantee a longer life but it does guarantee a better one.**

V. WHERE IS WISDOM FOUND?

- a. From the Lord
 - i. *Prov. 2:6 "The Lord gives wisdom and from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding"*
 - ii. Imitation vs. real wisdom (James 3:13-18)
 - iii. *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."* - James 3:13-18 NKJV
- b. God has more than enough wisdom for everyone.

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- i. “Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!” -Romans 11:33 NIV
- ii. “Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” -Isaiah 40:28 NIV

VI. HOW DO I GET IT?

- a. Recognize how badly you need it.
 - i. Humility is the bedrock of wisdom (1 Cor. 3:18)
 - ii. “Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become “fools” so that you may become wise.” -1 Corinthians 3:18 NIV
 - iii. **“If you don’t walk in humility, you’ll never grow in wisdom”. - Preston Morris**
 - iv. “Where there is strife, there is pride, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.” -Proverbs 13:10 NIV
 - v. “Whoever listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.” -Proverbs 15:31 NIV
- b. Prize it and pursue it. (Prov. 2:1-5)
 - i. “My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.” -Proverbs 2:1-5 NIV
- c. Live in the word (Life is an open book test)

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- i. "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple." -Psalms 19:7
NIV
 - ii. **The less word you have in your diet the less wisdom you have in your day.**
- d. Ask God. (1 Kings 3, James 1:5)
- i. *"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."*
-James 1:5 NIV