

INTRODUCTION

- * We have come to our final study in this series on the book of Proverbs - today we want to consider the Perpetuity of Wisdom.
- * We began this study on May 31, 2020 with "An Introduction to the Book of Proverbs"
 - In that message, we noted that the "Self-Improvement Industry" was worth \$11.6 billion in 2019 (in just the U.S.) and estimated to grow to \$13.2 billion by 2022. Yet, God has given us the ultimate source of wisdom - His Word ... and it is never-changing!
- * PHILOSOPHY is the field of study that "investigates reality and human existence." Literally, it means "the love of wisdom" (from Philo - sophos). Interestingly, "religion" is a subset of philosophy. Even more interesting is therefore is the core question of philosophy: "What is the uncaused cause?"
 - At the root of the understanding of reality, and the love of wisdom, is a true understanding of what, or WHO, is the uncaused cause!
 - When you have the proper foundation ... you can begin to build the proper structure!

INSTRUCTION

I. THE FOUNDATION

A. God is _____

- * Exodus 3:13-14
- * Psalms 90:1-2
- * Psalm 93:2
- * Psalm 102:24-27
- * Isaiah 9:6
- * Micah 5:2
- * Hebrews 13:8

B. God is _____

- * 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; James 3:13-17
- * James 1:5-8; Proverbs 2:1-6; Exodus 36:1-2

II. THE DECISION

A. To E _____, or R _____, the Knowledge & Wisdom of God

- * Genesis 1:26-27
- * Ecclesiastes 3:11
- * Romans 1:18-23

B. To I _____, or I _____, the Knowledge & Wisdom of God

- * Ephesians 1:15-18
- * 2 Peter 3:17-18
- * 2 Timothy 3:13-17
- * Proverbs 1:5-6; Proverbs 9:9; Proverbs 8:33-34; Proverbs 4:5-7

INTROSPECTION

- * FROM WHOSE WISDOM WILL YOU SEEK TO LEARN AND APPLY TO YOUR LIFE?
- * WHAT COMMITMENT WILL YOU MAKE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUALLY GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST?
- * ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEND MORE TIME IN THE WORD OF GOD?
- * IS THERE A NEED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ... AND, THEREFORE, THE WAY YOU ACT?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Read Proverbs 8. Consider again the importance of wisdom in the creative work and redemption plan of God.

Exodus 3:13-14¹³ Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" 14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Psalms 90:1-2 *A Prayer Of Moses the Man of God.* ¹ LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. ² Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

Psalms 93:2 Your throne is established from of old; You are from everlasting.

Psalms 102:24-27²⁴ I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations. ²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but **You will endure**; yes, they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, **whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.**"

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." ²⁰ 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? ²¹ **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.** ²² For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ Because **the foolishness of God is wiser than men**, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence. ³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God--and righteousness and sanctification and redemption-- ³¹ that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

James 3:13-17¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ **This wisdom** does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ **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.

James 1:5-8⁵ **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. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Proverbs 2:1-6¹ My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, ² so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, ⁴ If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ **For the LORD gives wisdom**; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Exodus 36:1-2¹ "And Bezalel and Aholiab, and **every gifted artisan in whom the LORD has put wisdom** and understanding, to know how to do all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, shall do according to all that the LORD has commanded." ² Then Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab, and **every gifted artisan in whose heart the LORD had put wisdom**, everyone whose heart was stirred, to come and do the work.
LITV ... "every gifted artisan" is "everyone wise of heart"

Genesis 1:26-27²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So **God created man in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also **He has put eternity in their hearts**, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

Romans 1:18-23¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, ¹⁹ because **what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.** ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, ²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man--and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Ephesians 1:15-18¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him**, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

2 Peter 3:17-18¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; ¹⁸ **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.** To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2 Timothy 3:13-17¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known **the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for** doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Proverbs 1:5-6⁵ **A wise man will hear and increase learning**, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, ⁶ to understand a proverb and an enigma, the words of the wise and their riddles.

Proverbs 9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 8:33-34 Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

Proverbs 4:5-7 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.