

The WALK

3 of 4 | Walk in his WISDOM

SLIDE 1 Introduction

There are five books of the Old Testament that are grouped together and called the Wisdom Books. They are Job, Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, The Song of Solomon (Now called Song of Songs), and Psalms.

Of these the book of Proverbs introduces the pursuit of wisdom. It opens with the admonition that Proverbs was given to us ² *...for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; ³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; ⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young— ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— ⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.*"

What I read were verses 2 through 6 of chapter 1. Then in verse 7 Proverbs says:

SLIDE 2 Proverbs 1:7 (NIV) *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

The idea that fools despise wisdom and instruction is not because they desire to be fools. It is because they are already wise in their own eyes. They think they can figure it out on their own. They lack any trust in others, no matter what the issue.

It takes humility to allow someone else into your life to help you. It takes trust that they are there for your good. It also takes time and effort to begin growing in wisdom and learning to apply it to your life.

SLIDE 3 Humility is the Key

Life can humble you, but the problem is, it usually does a lot of damage in the process. God did not create the family to house children until they reach a certain size. He designed it to train children until they can walk in a wisdom of their own.

This process has been obliterated in our modern society and everyone has become high-minded. This is because everyone can "fact-check" you in real time. This has led to less and less trust as more and more people simply try to persuade you for their advantage.

This is one of the many reasons God has given you his Word. It is so you can “truth-check” the agendas people have over your lives. It is so you can have an ultimate source for acquiring the wisdom you need to live in this life successfully.

However, like I stated in Proverbs 1:7, it all begins with the fear of the Lord. Jesus said:

SLIDE 4 Luke 12:4, 5 (NIV) *“⁴ I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. ⁵ But I will show you whom you should fear: **Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell.** Yes, I tell you, fear him.”*

These are stern words that should strike fear in our hearts. Modern day preaching has endeavored to remove all fear of God and promote an all compassionate God who “winks at sin.”

However, when Paul, When he was speaking at the Areopagus in Athens he said this:

SLIDE 5 Acts 17:30 (NIV) *“In the past God overlooked [KJV: winked at sin] such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.”*

So part of the “beginning of wisdom” involves repenting—repenting of our own high-mindedness and disregarding the Word of God as the source of all true wisdom.

As regarding the wisdom of man and the wisdom of this world, Paul told the believers in Corinth:

SLIDE 6 1st Corinthians 3:18-20 (NIV) *“¹⁸ 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.”*

SLIDE 7 *“¹⁹ **For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.** As it is written: “He catches the wise in their craftiness;” ²⁰ and again, **“The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.”**”*

Futility means that something serves no purpose. We possess so much knowledge of things of this world that serve no purpose, and like the Athenians, we run around listening and talking about the latest thing, as if it added something to our lives.

SLIDE 8 Acts: 17:21 (NIV) *“All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent*

their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas."

This gets us no place in life, except into deeper and deeper deception.

SLIDE 9 Knowledge Must Be Useful

Granted we must learn a lot of things about the world we live in. Especially how to make a good cup of coffee. But practical application covers more than just the things around us, it applies also to the things within us—our emotions, our intellect, our state of being.

Last week when I talked about the ways of the Lord, I demonstrated how we are called to walk in them. I did not cover all that they are. I just put out the idea that they are there to pursue.

It is the same today. I cannot cover all that wisdom is. I just want us to see that we are called to walk in the wisdom of God, not the world's, and even not our own wisdom, but God's wisdom as defined in his Word.

SLIDE 10 Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."*

We spend our lives in a rush to get things, and sometimes we don't even know why. There is a great deception in life that tries to lure us into the idea that with all our getting of things and living of experiences that one day we will come to a stable place of peace and satisfaction. Many learn this too late, only after running after these things all their lives. However, the Bible tells us:

SLIDE 11 Hebrews 13:5, 6 (NIV) *"⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and **be content with what you have**, because God has said,..."*

SLIDE 12 *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6) ⁶ So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (Psalm 118:6)"*

Once we slow down and quit trying to keep up, we realize we don't have to. Our God will provide. Only through this newfound wisdom will we find the time to actually seek God and come to know him more fully.

A healthy fear of God leads us to a deeper understanding of God and his ways. Once we see that, we too will begin to desire to walk in his Ways and walk in his

Wisdom. This is all built on the foundation of walking in his *Word*.

SLIDE 13 Godly Wisdom

As regarding the wisdom I speak of today, the world would consider it contrary to what it believes. However, the things that works, are the things of God, whether they realize it are not. People have tried theft, abuse of power, murder, deception. None of these things actually work. *"Ruthless men gain only wealth."* (Proverbs 11:16)

However, walking in the wisdom of God gives us a sure reward for our labors. In this wisdom we seek not the prosperity of ourselves only, we seek the benefit of others.

Wisdom invests in the lives of others. From doing this your return on this investment is the appreciation and blessing of others upon your life. Again, in the "walk of love" I mentioned last week, 1st Corinthians chapter 13 mentions *"love seeks not its own."* (v. 5)

SLIDE 14 The Voice of Wisdom

The wisdom of God is not found just hear and there. It is not acquired even through experience. It comes from learning to apply biblical knowledge to your inner person as a strength of moral character. From this internal base arises deeds that are performed in righteousness and words that are helpful to others.

This topic, like the others in this series, only give you a reason to seek to walk in them, not actually what each of them are. It will be the same when a talk about true riches next week in the message *Walk In His Wealth*.

Wisdom alone is mentioned over 200 times in the Bible. It's a deep study to glean what the Bible says about wisdom. It's a lifetime project to then walk in it.

In the 30 sayings of the Wise, listed in Proverbs, saying number 21 says this:

SLIDE 15 Proverbs 24:3, 4 (NIV) *"³ By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; ⁴ through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."*