

Sermon Summary

“A new beginning – COVID normal.”

Proverbs 3.

“Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold”

Psalm 3:13,14

We begin a new year “Covid normal”. The pandemic has forced us to live it. As Christians we bring wisdom to living it. But what is wisdom? What characteristics make up the wise person? Who is the “wise man” or “woman”? What value is there in being wise?

In the Old Testament there are two types of wisdom. One to do with “human skill” a gift of God (e.g. Exodus 28:3). The other a wisdom that comes from God that God alone ultimately possess (Job 12:13). We read a lot about wisdom in the Old Testament book of Proverbs; one of the five books in the Old Testament that make up what’s called the wisdom literature. Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Job and Song of Songs are the other four.

Godly wisdom cannot be derived by human intellect. (Job 28:12; Eccl 7:23; Job 2:22) The scoffer will never find it (Proverbs 14:6). But God, gives it to those who seek it (Proverbs 2:6; Ecclesiastes 2:26; James 1 verse 5). It’s first step is to “fear him”, reverence him. However, it’s not the be all and end all of wisdom. The second step is to “follow his precepts”. The two go hand in hand to be wise. The truly wise person is the good person who at the very beginning wisely chooses to give God his proper place in life.

Christ is the revelation of God’s wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:24). Living life God’s way, “In Christ” is truly wisdom. “In Christ is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3). The person that is wise is one who, in wisdom, begins with the fear of the Lord, awe and reverent respect, brings it to God in prayer and then in humility seeks His path constantly checking it along the way and follows it not wavering to the left or to the right.

*“Seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well”*. Matthew 6:33

A Bible Study

Read Psalm 3

What is wise about...

... not forgetting what we learn from God’s word and those who teach it to us? (verses 1 and 2)

... letting love and faithfulness never leave us? (See verses 3 and 4)

... trusting in the Lord with all our heart and leaning not on our own understanding (see verses 5 and 6)

... not being wise in your own eyes, but fearing the Lord and shunning evil? (see verses 7 and 8)

... honouring the Lord with your wealth (see verses 9 and 10)

... not despising the Lord’s discipline and rebuke? (See verses 11 and 12)

... not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to act? To not say to your neighbour, “Come back tomorrow and I’ll give it to you” when you already have it with you. To not plot harm against your neighbour who lives trustfully near you? To not accuse anyone for no reason when they have done you no harm? To Do not envy the violent or choose any of their ways. (See verses 31 to 35)

What is wise about...

... having wisdom? (See verses 13 to 18, 21 to 26)

A Prayer:

Teach me, O gracious Lord in this new normal, to be wise. To begin my works with reverence, to go on in obedience, and finish them with love; and then, to wait patiently in hope, and with cheerful countenance to look to you, whose promises are faithful and rewards infinite; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**