

# What does the Bible say about wisdom?

Super Saturday Jesus Rally  
May 2, 2015

## Agenda

1. Record the call
2. Introductions
3. Songs -
  - a. Good to me
  - b. Blessed Assurance
  - c. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
4. Prayer
5. Welcome
  - a. Who I am and what is the Bible Team (see previous call)
6. Study - **What does the Bible say about wisdom?**
  - a. Discussion of the topic
  - b. Worldly wisdom vs. Spiritual wisdom
  - c. Keys to wisdom
  - d. Wisdom defined
  - e. Wisdom applied: Life of Solomon
  - f. Ecclesiastes and final thoughts

## Worldly wisdom vs. Spiritual wisdom

### 1 Corinthians 1

18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 19 As the Scriptures say,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise

and discard the intelligence of the intelligent."

20 So where does this leave the philosophers, the scholars, and the world's brilliant debaters? God has made the wisdom of this world look foolish. **21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.** 22 It is foolish to the Jews, who ask for signs from heaven. And it is foolish to the Greeks, who seek human wisdom. 23 So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense.

**24 But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God.** 25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. 28 God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. 29 As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.

**30 God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.** 31 Therefore, as the Scriptures say, "If you want to boast, boast only about the

LORD."

Note: Pop culture and man made conventional wisdom has crept into our churches. Beware of worldly wisdom in the church, masquerading as spiritual wisdom. If we truly seek the Holy Spirit He will lead us appropriately. We need to be careful about the leaders we follow and learn how to trust in the Spirit of God.

## Keys to wisdom:

### Proverbs 11:

2 Pride leads to disgrace,  
but with humility comes wisdom.

### James 1:

5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

## Best Definition of wisdom

### Proverbs 1 New Living Translation (NLT)

1 These are the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel.  
2 Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline,  
to help them understand the insights of the wise.  
3 Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives,  
to help them do what is right, just, and fair.  
4 These proverbs will give insight to the simple,  
knowledge and discernment to the young.  
5 Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser.  
Let those with understanding receive guidance  
6 by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables,  
the words of the wise and their riddles.  
7 **Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**

...

20 Wisdom shouts in the streets.  
She cries out in the public square.  
21 She calls to the crowds along the main street,  
to those gathered in front of the city gate:  
22 "How long, you simpletons,

will you insist on being simpleminded?  
How long will you mockers relish your mocking?  
How long will you fools hate knowledge?  
23 Come and listen to my counsel.  
I'll share my heart with you  
and make you wise.  
24 "I called you so often, but you wouldn't come.  
I reached out to you, but you paid no attention.  
25 You ignored my advice  
and rejected the correction I offered.

## **Proverbs 2**

- 2** My child, listen to what I say,  
and treasure my commands.  
**2** Tune your ears to wisdom,  
and concentrate on understanding.  
**3** Cry out for insight,  
and ask for understanding.  
**4** Search for them as you would for silver;  
seek them like hidden treasures.  
**5** Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD,  
and you will gain knowledge of God.  
**6** For the LORD grants wisdom!  
From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
**7** He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest.  
He is a shield to those who walk with integrity.  
**8** He guards the paths of the just  
and protects those who are faithful to him.  
**9** Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair,  
and you will find the right way to go.  
**10** For wisdom will enter your heart,  
and knowledge will fill you with joy.  
**11** Wise choices will watch over you.  
Understanding will keep you safe.  
**12** Wisdom will save you from evil people,  
from those whose words are twisted.  
**13** These men turn from the right way  
to walk down dark paths.  
**14** They take pleasure in doing wrong,  
and they enjoy the twisted ways of evil.  
**15** Their actions are crooked,  
and their ways are wrong.  
**16** Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman,  
from the seductive words of the promiscuous woman.  
**17** She has abandoned her husband  
and ignores the covenant she made before God.

- <sup>18</sup> Entering her house leads to death;  
it is the road to the grave.
- <sup>19</sup> The man who visits her is doomed.  
He will never reach the paths of life.
- <sup>20</sup> Follow the steps of good men instead,  
and stay on the paths of the righteous.
- <sup>21</sup> For only the godly will live in the land,  
and those with integrity will remain in it.
- <sup>22</sup> But the wicked will be removed from the land,  
and the treacherous will be uprooted.

## Proverbs 3

- 3** My child, never forget the things I have taught you.  
Store my commands in your heart.
- <sup>2</sup> If you do this, you will live many years,  
and your life will be satisfying.
- <sup>3</sup> Never let loyalty and kindness leave you!  
Tie them around your neck as a reminder.  
Write them deep within your heart.
- <sup>4</sup> Then you will find favor with both God and people,  
and you will earn a good reputation.
- <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart;  
do not depend on your own understanding.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do,  
and he will show you which path to take.
- <sup>7</sup> Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.  
Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.
- <sup>8</sup> Then you will have healing for your body  
and strength for your bones.

### Wisdom applied

#### What the Torah commands kings

**Deuteronomy 17:** <sup>14</sup> "You are about to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you. When you take it over and settle there, you may think, 'We should select a king to rule over us like the other nations around us.' <sup>15</sup> If this happens, be sure to select as king the man the LORD your God chooses. You must appoint a fellow Israelite; he may not be a foreigner.

<sup>16</sup> "The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the LORD has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.' <sup>17</sup> The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the LORD. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

<sup>18</sup> "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. <sup>19</sup> He must always keep that copy with

him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the LORD his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. <sup>20</sup> This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

### **The advice King David gave him**

**1 Chronicles 28:** <sup>9</sup> “And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the LORD sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. <sup>10</sup> So take this seriously. The LORD has chosen you to build a Temple as his sanctuary. Be strong, and do the work.”

### **His first meeting with God**

**2 Chronicles 1:** <sup>7</sup> That night God appeared to Solomon and said, “What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!”

<sup>8</sup> Solomon replied to God, “You showed great and faithful love to David, my father, and now you have made me king in his place. <sup>9</sup> O LORD God, please continue to keep your promise to David my father, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth! <sup>10</sup> Give me the wisdom and knowledge to lead them properly, for who could possibly govern this great people of yours?”

<sup>11</sup> God said to Solomon, “Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people— <sup>12</sup> I will certainly give you the wisdom and knowledge you requested. But I will also give you wealth, riches, and fame such as no other king has had before you or will ever have in the future!”

<sup>13</sup> Then Solomon returned to Jerusalem from the Tabernacle at the place of worship in Gibeon, and he reigned over Israel.

### **How wise was he?**

**1 Kings 4:** <sup>29</sup> God gave Solomon very great wisdom and understanding, and knowledge as vast as the sands of the seashore. <sup>30</sup> In fact, his wisdom exceeded that of all the wise men of the East and the wise men of Egypt. <sup>31</sup> He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite and the sons of Mahol—Heman, Calcol, and Darda. His fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. <sup>32</sup> He composed some 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. <sup>33</sup> He could speak with authority about all kinds of plants, from the great cedar of Lebanon to the tiny hyssop that grows from cracks in a wall. He could also speak about animals, birds, small creatures, and fish. <sup>34</sup> And kings from every nation sent their ambassadors to listen to the wisdom of Solomon.

## His second meeting with God

**1 Kings 9:** So Solomon finished building the Temple of the LORD, as well as the royal palace. He completed everything he had planned to do. 2 Then the LORD appeared to Solomon a second time, as he had done before at Gibeon. 3 The LORD said to him,

“I have heard your prayer and your petition. I have set this Temple apart to be holy—this place you have built where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

4 “As for you, if you will follow me with integrity and godliness, as David your father did, obeying all my commands, decrees, and regulations, 5 then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever. For I made this promise to your father, David: ‘One of your descendants will always sit on the throne of Israel.’

## A king’s folly

**1 Kings 11:** Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh’s daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites. 2 The LORD had clearly instructed the people of Israel, “You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods.” Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway. 3 He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the LORD.

4 In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the LORD his God, as his father, David, had been. 5 Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the LORD’s sight; he refused to follow the LORD completely, as his father, David, had done.

7 On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods.

9 The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the LORD’s command. 11 So now the LORD said to him, “Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants. 12 But for the sake of your father, David, I will not do this while you are still alive. I will take the kingdom away from your son. 13 And even so, I will not take away the entire kingdom; I will let him be king of one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, my chosen city.”

## A lasting legacy through Solomon’s lessons Ecclesiastes

**Ecclesiastes 1:**12 I, the Teacher, was king of Israel, and I lived in Jerusalem. 13 I devoted myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom everything being done under heaven. I soon discovered that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. **14 I observed everything going on under the sun, and really, it is all meaningless—like chasing the wind.**

15 What is wrong cannot be made right.

What is missing cannot be recovered.

16 I said to myself, "Look, I am wiser than any of the kings who ruled in Jerusalem before me. I have greater wisdom and knowledge than any of them." 17 So I set out to learn everything from wisdom to madness and folly. But I learned firsthand that pursuing all this is like chasing the wind.

18 The greater my wisdom, the greater my grief.

To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.

**Ecclesiastes 2:** I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. 2 So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" 3 After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

**Ecclesiastes 12:** 13 That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty. 14 God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.

### **Ultimate lesson to be learned and taught:**

**Matthew 16:** 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

OR: And what do you benefit if you have all the wisdom but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?