

GROWING IN WISDOM

I. DEFINED

Wisdom="1. The quality of being wise; power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding, etc; good judgment; 2. learning; knowledge; 3. wise discourse or teaching 4. a wise plan or course of action." (Webster's Dictionary)

Wisdom=Chakam (Khaw-Kam) is a primitive root (word, meaning) to be wise (in mind, word or act) (defined) teach wisdom, be (make self, shew self) wise, deal (never so) wisely, make wiser. (Strongs Concordance-On Line Bible)

II. TWO TYPES OF WISDOM

A. James 3:13-17; [refer to illustration on last page]

1. Worldly or Lower Wisdom is: (verse 14-16;)

a) Described as:

- (1) **Earthly=it is of the earth or world system. Philippians 3:18-19;** "For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."
- (2) **Sensual=it is governed by appetite and passion.**
- (3) **Devilish=it is evil and wicked like the devil. Follows Satan's ways.**

b) Revealed as:

- (1) **Bitter envying=(v. 14a; 16a;) It is an envious and contentious rivalry, jealously. Illustrated by Mark 15:10;** "For he knew that the chief priests had delivered Him for envy" (Romans 1:29; Titus 3:3; James 4:5;)
- (2) **Strife=(v. 14b; 16b;) It means contention, wrangling, variance, debate I Corinthians 3:3** "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" **Romans 13:13;** "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." **In Galatians 5:20 it refers to "a desire to put one's self forward" and is referring to the works of the flesh.** "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,"
- (3) **Glorying and Lying against the truth=(v. 14c-d)**

c) Resulting in:

- (1) **Confusion=v.16c; I Corinthians 14:33;** "For God is not the author of Confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."
- (2) **And every evil work=16d; Ecclesiastes 8:11;** "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." **Thus the increase in crime today. It**

all begins with envy and strife being involved and results in every evil work.

2. **Heavenly or Higher wisdom is: (James 3:17-18;) [refer to illustration on last page]**

a) **Described as:**

- (1) **Pure=not impure, evil or corrupt. In James 3:17 it means [1] exciting reverence, venerable, sacred [2] pure from carnality, chaste, modest, immaculate, clean. I Timothy 5:22; "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." Philipians 4:8; "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." In Titus 1:15; "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." the word pure means [1a] physically-purified by fire (ill-gold, trials) [1b] in the Levitical sense-clean, the use of which is not forbidden, [1c] ethically-free from corrupt desire, free from sin and guilt; sincere, genuine, blameless, innocent. Thus in Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." Thus as heavenly wisdom is pure, the one who has this wisdom will also be pure in their life and actions.**
- (2) **Peaceable=not warring, angry, or agitated. In James 3:17; it means [1] relating to peace [2] peaceable, pacific, loving peace [3] bring peace with it, peaceful. Also in Hebrews 12:11 "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."**
- (3) **Gentle=not harsh, cruel, or mean. In James 3:17 it means fair, mild, gentle, and kind. II Timothy 2:24; states it is a qualification for a pastor, missionary or any servant of the Lord. "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient." In Titus 3:2 Paul instructs Titus to tell the saints in the churches to be gentle. "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing meekness unto all men." Paul also points out that gentleness is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22; "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"**

b) **Revealed as:**

- (1) **Easy to be intreated=[v. 17d] this means one who is willing to obey the truth when approached, not quick to get offended but compliant. Willing to co-operate and follow godly instruction. Willing to admit**

their wrong when shown the truth.

- (2) **Full of Mercy=[v, 17e] Mercy is [1] kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help [la] of men toward men: to exercise the virtue of mercy, show one's self merciful [lb] of God towards men: the mercy and clemency of God in providing and offering to men Salvation by Christ. (Strong's Concordance=On Line Bible) Titus 3:5-6; "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost: Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."**
 - (3) **Full of Good Fruits=[v.17f) According to Strong's Concordance in the On Line Bible, the word fruit means [1] the fruit of the trees, vines, of the fields; the fruit of one's loins=his children [2] that which originates or comes from something; and effect, result; [a] work, act, deed, of Christian Character [c] praises, which are presented to God as a thank-offering [d] to gather fruit into life eternal by soul winning. (Strong's Concordance) The word good means pleasant, agreeable, useful, upright, honorable, happy, joyful. (Strong's) Matthew 7:15-19; explains that you can tell false prophets by their fruit. Matthew 12:33-37; explain that good fruit is revealed by spoken words. Matthew 13:3-8, 23; explain about the sower of 3 degrees of fruit. Matthew 13:24-30; warns about tares among the fruit. John 4:36-38; explain about sowers and reapers of fruit. John 15:1-16; explain how all believers should bear good fruit.**
- c) **Resulting in being:**
- (1) **without partiality=[v.17g] refers to [1] an inclination of mind, a joining the party of one. (Strong's) It means showing favor to one person over another. In I Timothy 5:21; Paul explains to Timothy not to show partiality in the ministry. "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."**
 - (2) **without hypocrisy=[v.17h] refers to being [1] undisguised, sincere, (Strong's) In other words Godly Wisdom is honest and truthful. It does not put on a false appearance or front like a stage play or movie set. It does not pretend to be something it is not like the Pharisees in Jesus day. Matthew 23:28; "even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Thus we begin to get an idea of what Godly Wisdom is and does. We will learn more about it as this study continues.**

III. THE WISEST MAN WHO EVER LIVED!

- A. **Proverbs 4:3-9**; tells us that his father taught him what he needed more than any thing else. Solomon must have listened to his father, King David, because we learn about the amazing offer he received and his response!
- B. **II Chronicles 1:1-12**; and **I Kings 3:5-14**; have preserved this amazing offer for us to learn and profit from.
- C. **Solomon's wisdom was greater than all other kings! I Kings 10:23-24; II Chronicles 9:22"And King Solomon passed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom."**

IV. WHAT IS THE VALUE OF WISDOM?

A. God's view of the value of Worldly Wisdom!

- 1. **I Corinthians 3:19-20** "For the wisdom of this world is **foolishness** with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness (Job 5:13;) And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are **vain**. "
- 2. **Romans 1:21-25**; **Worldly wisdom will make a monkey out of you!**

B. The Value of Godly Wisdom!

- 1. **It is priceless! Job 28:12, 15-19;**
- 2. **It brings Happiness! Proverbs 3:13;**
- 3. **Its' merchandise is beyond anything wealth can buy! Proverbs 3:14;**
ILL- Most gold in jewelry is mixed with other minerals to make it durable!
- 4. **A Palace, 20 Billion \$'s in the bank, 5 Rolls Royces painted red, yellow, blue, pink, and purple, 3 Ocean Yachts, 4 Jet liners painted orange, green, indigo, yellow and maroon, 3 summer homes in the Swiss Alps, Aspen, German Alps, 2 winter homes in Hawaii and Monte Carlo could not begin to compare to it! Proverbs 3:15; 8:11;**
- 5. **Wisdom extends one's days and brings true riches and honor! Proverbs 3:16;**
- 6. **Wisdom's ways are pleasantness and peace! Proverbs 3:17;**
- 7. **Wisdom gives life to those who get it and Happiness! Proverbs 3:18;**
- 8. **Wisdom can be forsaken or turned away from as Solomon did (I Kings 11) Proverbs 4:5-6a;**
- 9. **Wisdom will preserve and keep one! Proverbs 4:6;**
- 10. **Exalt (lift up, honor, elevate) Wisdom and it will promote one! Proverbs 4:8;**
- 11. **To harken to and gain Wisdom results in one dwelling safely and not worrying or fearing evil! Proverbs 1:20a, 33;**
- 12. **Wisdom is as far above folly as light above darkness! Ecclesiastes 2:13-14;**
- 13. **Wisdom is a defense and giveth life! Ecclesiastes 7:12;**
- 14. **Wisdom strengthens the wise! Ecclesiastes 7:19;**
- 15. **Wisdom is better than strength! Ecclesiastes 9:16;**
- 16. **Wisdom is better than weapons! Ecclesiastes 9:18;**

17. **Wisdom is profitable to direct! Ecclesiastes 10:10;**

V. MORE ABOUT BIBLICAL WISDOM

- A. **The LORD used Wisdom to found the earth and heavens! Proverbs 3:19-20; 8:22-32; Psalm 136:5; 104:24; Jeremiah 10:12;**
- B. **We all need Wisdom! Proverbs 4:5-7; We now know its value!**
- C. **Proverbs 8-9 declare words that Wisdom speaks**
- D. **We should preach and teach Wisdom as Paul did! Colossians 1:28;**
- E. **Believers should walk in Wisdom before the lost! Colossians 4:5; Ephesians 5:15-16;**

VI. THE SOURCE OF GODLY WISDOM!

A. What is its source?

1. **God is the source of true godly wisdom! I Kings 10:24** "And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart." Job 12:9, 13, 16a; "Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? With Him is wisdom and strength, He hath counsel and understanding. With Him is strength and wisdom:" **Daniel 2:20-21, 23;** "Daniel answered and said, 'Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His; And He changeth the times and seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: .. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto us the king's matter." **Romans 11:33;** "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! **Thus we begin to see that godly wisdom comes from God!** **Proverbs 2:6** "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of His mouth (God's word-the Bible) cometh knowledge and understanding!" **Now do you begin to see the IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY????**
2. **ALSO It is through "The Fear Of The Lord" that men learn godly wisdom!** **Psalm 111:10** "The **fear of the LORD** is the **beginning** of **wisdom**; a good **understanding** have all they that **do** His commandments: His praise endureth for ever." **Read==Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 15:33;**
 - a) **What is the Fear Of The Lord? C. I. Scofield states "The 'fear of the Lord' a phrase of the Old Testament piety, meaning reverential trust, with hatred of evil. " **THUS THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HAVE A REVERENT TRUST AND FAITH IN GOD WITH A HATRED OF EVIL!****
 - b) **Consider these facts about the "fear of the LORD"**
 - (1) **It is clean and endures for ever! Psalm 19:9;**
 - (2) **There is no want to those who fear the LORD! Psalm 34:9; Consider**

- this entire Psalm, especially verse 11;**
- (3) It is the beginning of Wisdom and Knowledge! Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10;**
 - (4) Solomon admonished us to "fear the LORD"! Proverbs 3:7;**
 - (5) You can understand the fear of the LORD by hearing, applying, asking, and seeking for wisdom, understanding and knowledge! Proverbs 2:1-5; (Matthew 7:7-8; James 1:5-7;)**
 - (6) The "fear of the LORD" is to hate evil! Proverbs 8:13; 16:6;**
 - (7) The "fear of the LORD" extends days! Proverbs 10:27;**
 - (8) What does it mean to "fear the LORD"? Proverbs 14:2;**
 - (9) The "fear of the LORD" gives strong confidence! Proverbs 14:26;**
 - (10) The "fear of the LORD" is a fountain of life! Proverbs 14:27;**
 - (11) It is better to have little with the "fear of the LORD" than great treasure with trouble! Proverbs 15:16; Psalm 37:16; I Timothy 6:6 "But Godliness with contentment is great gain."**
 - (12) The "fear of the LORD" is the instruction of wisdom! Proverbs 15:33;**
 - (13) By the "fear of the LORD" men depart from evil! Proverbs 16:6;**
 - (14) The "fear of the LORD" brings life and satisfaction! Proverbs 19:23;**
 - (15) By humility and "the fear of the LORD" are riches, honor, and life! Proverbs 22:4;**
- 3. Consider Job's words regarding Wisdom and how to obtain it! Job 28:12-15; 20-28;**
 - 4. Consider again Solomon's writings about Wisdom. Proverbs 2:1-22;**
 - 5. Wisdom Comes Through The Trinity!**
 - a) Ephesians 1:7-8, 17;**
 - b) Colossians 2:2-3;**
 - c) Christ is made unto the believer "wisdom"! I Corinthians 1 :30;**
 - 6. God's Word, the Bible, is also a source of Wisdom! II Timothy 3:15-17; Colossians 3:16;**
- B. Do You Want Wisdom?? James 1:5-7;**
- C. Thus to sum up the facts about Wisdom! True Godly Wisdom comes from God through Jesus Christ! To obtain wisdom involves:**
- 1. Understanding that it is ours through Jesus Christ!**
 - 2. Praying daily and asking the Lord in faith for more Wisdom as James explains!**
 - 3. Living daily with a Holy Reverence and Faith in the Lord!**
 - 4. Hating Evil and not entertaining or allowing it in your life! Proverbs chapters 1-4 and 8-10 explain 'wisdom', 'knowledge', 'understanding', and the 'fear of the LORD'.**
 - a) Read and mark each of the single-quoted words above with a different**

color. Also mark the pronoun with each word. [pronouns are like: 'she', 'her', etc.] This makes a great Bible study!

5. Reading and obeying the written word of God, the Bible!

**VII. FINALLY, CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF REJECTING
GODLY WISDOM!**

A. Proverbs 1:20-33; Galatians 6:7-8;

[the illustration WISDOM – TWO KINDS on the next page ends this document]

DESCRIBED AS

Pure
Peaceable
Gentle

Heavenly
Higher Wisdom
James 3:17-18

REVEALED AS

Easy to be intreated
Full of Mercy
Full of Good Fruits

RESULTS IN

Without Partiality
Without Hypocrisy



DESCRIBED AS

Earthly
Sensual
Devilish

Worldly
Lower Wisdom
James 3:13-17

REVEALED AS

Bitter Envy
Strife
Glorifying & Lying
Against the Truth

RESULTS IN

Confusion
And Every Evil Work



Wisdom - 2 Types