

Who is Wise and Understanding Among You?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. Man's interest in wisdom dates back to Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:4-6
- B. Wisdom is very desirable blessing - James 3:13; Prov. 2:6
- C. The world recognizes wisdom, it just can't produce it.
 - 1. "True wisdom comes from the overcoming of suffering and sin. All true wisdom is therefore touched with sadness." Whittaker Chambers
 - 2. "Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; wisdom is humble that he knows no more." William Cowper
 - 3. "All wisdom may be reduced to two words: wait and hope." Alexandre Dumas
 - 4. Ecc. 9:17-18
- D. Consider some identifying characteristics of a wise man

I. WHO IS A WISE MAN?

- A. One who humbly performs good works that reflect the wisdom of God
 - 1. 1Cor. 3:18-20
- B. One who respect his parents - Prov. 13:1, 15:5
 - 1. Manifested by being a obedient child - Eph. 6:1; Luke 2:51
- C. One who controls his lips - Prov. 10:19, 17:28, 29:11; Psalm 39:1; 1Peter 3:10
 - 1. A wise man refrains from:
 - a. Cursing - Ex. 20:7
 - b. Railing (to revile, speak evil of) - 1Tim. 6:4-5
 - c. Filthy speaking - Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:17
 - d. Hasty words - James 1:19
 - e. Deceit - Jer. 9:8
 - f. Gossip - Lev. 19:16
- D. One who wins souls - Prov. 11:30
 - 1. Bringing one soul to Christ is the highest achievement possible for a human being. Bringing souls to Christ is the first and primary work of a local church.
 - 2. This is the last instruction Christ gave on earth before ascending to His Father - Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Ez. 33:8-9
- E. One who fears evil and departs from it
 - 1. Heb. 3:13; Prov. 14:16; 1Thes. 5:22; Rom. 12:9; 1Peter 3:11
 - 2. People tend to have three different approaches toward sin:
 - a. All embracing - Little, if any, moral compass; unashamed; belligerent toward instruction or correction
 - b. Apologetic - Mildly embarrassed; somewhat troubled in conscience; insufficient self-control; unwilling to discipline self
 - c. Actively resistant - Aware that one is not perfect, but strongly striving for perfection; struggles with temptation and sin with all of one's strength, and seeks restoration immediately upon failure

F. One who hears and obeys the Lord

1. Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 7:24; James 1:21-25

G. One who prepares - Matt. 25:1-4

1. Contrast these two men:

a. Saul - 1Sam. 15:13, 24-25, 30, 26:21

b. Paul - 2Tim. 4:6-8

2. The prepared man succeeds; the unprepared man fails.