

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Walk As Wise People, Not Fools, Pt 4

Ephesians 5:15

PowerPoint Presentation: None

Keywords: Wisdom, Maturity, Foolishness, Fool, Christian Walk

SermonAudio blurb:

I. Introduction.

A. Read 5:15-16.

1. To conduct your life in this age is easy if you wish to live in conformity to this age.
2. But to live wisely before God and man in this age requires much thought and care.
3. One does not just stumble into wise living and thinking. It flows from a heart that is in submission to God and out of a discipline mind.
4. A fool stiffens himself to the instruction of the Word but the wise person loves and welcomes the instruction of the Word even when it hurts.

B. Therefore we are looking in the book of Proverbs to help us grasp the idea of walking as a wise person rather than a fool.

1. This book is designed to discipline you—it will train that which is unruly in you.
 - a. You will be put under the instruction of the Lord. You will be placed at His feet.
 - b. Which requires that we have the proper attitude toward the place of instruction:
 - (1) You need to listen. You need to not hate the discipline.
 - (2) You must not refuse it. And you must embrace reproofs.
 - c. Proverbs addresses the areas of your life where you will not listen or you hate to be told so it can be painful to truly study.

C. Last week we learned three conditions to finding wisdom.

1. You must be receptive to the Word of God.

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2. You must ask for it in prayer.
 3. You must study.
 4. Only as these are practiced will you find the prize of wisdom and a knowledge of God. It is a journey of a lifetime that offers blessings and rewards throughout that journey.
- D. From there we began to describe a wise person and focused upon the idea that a wise person departs from evil.
1. A cautious life and mind.
 2. Aware of the sin within and the sin without.
 3. A love of holiness over comfort and a love of purity over reputation. Examples used were of Joseph and the three young men in Daniel.
- E.

II. Description of a wise man.

- A. A wise man knows how to listen.
1. A wise man will listen and learn from God — Proverbs 8:32-34.
 - a. Note that a person is wise when he hears instruction and does not refuse it (33). Both vs. 32 and 34 speak of the blessing that comes from obedience.
 - b. Notice the same truth in the introduction to the book—Proverbs 1:5. One is never too wise to learn from God's word.
 - c. This comes from a humble heart that knows that folly is just around the corner.
 2. A wise man will learn from others.
 - a. He seeks the advice of others—Proverbs 24:5-6.
 - (1) The wise man is strengthened in his knowledge by seeking the wise counsel of others. He is not an island.
 - (2) Remember this counsel is for a king-to-be.
 - (a) So don't be a Rehoboam.
 - (b) Be a Josiah — 2 Chronicles 34.
 - i) Note the youthful pursuit of wisdom by pursuing God (2-3).

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- ii) This led to the focused destruction of idolatry that was firmly rooted in this nation (4-7).
 - iii) He then turns to the rebuilding of the Temple, interesting that he was wise enough to remove the false gods first.
 - iv) vs 14 is one of the saddest verses in the bible and one also that brings me hope.
- (3) One learns wisdom much like one carefully builds a house (Proverbs 24:3-4).
- (4) The wise man is even taught by an ant—Proverbs 6:6.
- (a) Wise parents are always watchful for life lessons with their little ones.
 - (b) You can even speak of the consequences of the Fall when you see an animal kill another.
 - (c) The rainbow and God’s promises.
 - (d) The strength of a bristle cone pine.
 - (e) The constant reality of decay in a broken down building or parking lot.
- b. He learns from the mistakes of others — Proverbs 24:30-34.
- (1) The fool is so self-confident that he thinks his sin is right (Proverbs 10:23 12:15).
 - (2) The wise man listens to wisdom and does not walk in the way of a fool. The wise man is teachable (cf. Moses in Exodus 18:14-24).
3. A wise man will learn from a rebuke (Proverbs 9:8-10). Notice how a wise man asked when he is told is wrong:
- a. He shows love to the one who rebukes (9:8). 1 Samuel 25:32ff.
 - b. He gains more wisdom (9:9a).
 - c. The rebuke teaches him what is really important (9:9b-10). Fools hate rebukes and will not learn from them though they complain when the consequences of their folly comes upon them.

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- d. The motto of the book is repeated here. Wisdom begins by fearing God.
- B. A wise man will control his lips.
1. The wise man's principle is Proverbs 10:19; while the fool has many empty words (1 Timothy 5:13; 2 Timothy 2:16-17).
 - a. The wise man is not always silent but he is cautious (James 1:19).
 - b. Abraham Lincoln's famous line, "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt."
 2. The wise man's words are intended to build up others (Proverbs 12:18). His words should be helpful to others (cf. Proverbs 15:2, 7) not gossip!
 3. The wise man's words comfort his heart (Proverbs 16:23).
 - a. He thinks before he speaks. Our words should be based on conviction, not feeling. We need the tongue of the learned.
 - b. "The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient, Nor did I turn back. I gave My back to those who strike Me, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. For the Lord God helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I shall not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:4-7)
 - c. "... who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." (2 Corinthians 1:4)
 4. The words of a wise man are worth listening to (Proverbs 22:17). So find the wise and listen!
- C. Other characteristics of a wise man.
1. The wise man plans for the future (Proverbs 10:5).
 2. The wise man will control his temper (Proverbs 29:11).
 3. A wise man is not disturbed by the wisdom of the world (Proverbs 21:22).
 4. A wise man is not a respecter of persons (Proverbs 24:23-25).

III. Results of being a wise man.

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- A. A wise man brings joy to his family (Proverbs 10:1;15:20).
- B. A wise man will lead fools (Proverbs 11:29).
 - 1. But not always in this age, but as we saw in Isaiah 50, we will be vindicated in the end.
 - 2. Remember the general nature of Proverbs. But even now in this very foolish time we see it true often enough.
- C. A wise man will gain that which is truly important when he dies.
 - 1. He will inherit glory—Proverbs 3:35. He will receive true glory (cf. Daniel 12:3; John 17:24; 1 John 3:2).
 - 2. He will not see destruction (Proverbs 13:14). A man’s wisdom will keep from Satan’s ways (cf. Psalm 17:4).
 - 3. He lives with eternal life in view (Proverbs 15:24). His way of life should be above because he is born from above (cf. John 14:6).

IV. Truths for those who would be wise.

- A. Conduct a patient search for wisdom (Proverbs 17:24). The wise man should have his eye fixed on wisdom. Notice in Proverbs 4:5-7 what is involved in a careful search for wisdom:
 - 1. It must be acquired (vs 5).
 - 2. It can be forgotten (vs 6a just like Solomon). Knowing how to be wise today does not mean we will be wise tomorrow!
 - 3. It must be loved (vs 6b).
 - 4. It must be first in your life (vs 7a). God isn’t looking for brains or opportunities but decisions! Obey him! What is important in your life?
 - 5. It must be obtained at all cost (vs 7b). Note that to be a disciple of Christ, in Luke 14:28ff, you must renounce everything and follow him.
- B. Seek out friends that will make you wise (Proverbs 13:20). Fellowship with God and godly people is the central to learning wisdom.
- C. There should be progress in your search for wisdom (Proverbs 19:20). You should have the goal to be wise.
- D. Remember that God can teach us through little things (Proverbs 30:24-28).

V. Conclusion.

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Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- A. Wisdom, we have learned, is not something that this age can even know.
- B. True wisdom comes only when we are rightly related to God. This only comes when we believe the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- C. But that is only the beginning. From there is will be the prize of all who seek it, treasure it, pray for it and diligently study.
- D. May this be true of MDF.