

21ST CENTURY WISDOM Part 1

Wisdom Sees Through God's Eyes

In a world in which ACCESS to KNOWLEDGE has gone nuts, in which everyone has an OPINION and a PLATFORM from which to express it, what does it mean to be WISE?

→ *What is your take on the exponential increase in knowledge? Is it helpful? Where do you access your information personally? Why is it so difficult to sift all that information to get to truth and wisdom? Is it true to say that the issues are getting harder, more complex & more contentious?*
→ *"You can have all the knowledge in the world and yet be utterly unwise, even foolish." Discuss!*

JAMES 3:13-18

James' message = There's MORE THAN ONE THING trying to convince you it's WISE.

- i) There's the GOD-KIND, a wisdom FROM ABOVE (v15,17).
- ii) There are also EARTHLY, UNSPIRITUAL & DEMONIC kinds (v14-16).
→ *What are the characteristics of the God-Kind of wisdom? What about the other kinds? What would qualify as 'earthly' wisdom? What would be 'unspiritual?' What wisdom out there we could call 'demonic?'*
→ *"We are being pounded, marketed, seduced and bullied in all sorts of directions, by all kinds of voices claiming to be wise." Discuss!*

DEFINITION of WISDOM: Wisdom is the ABILITY to SEE through GOD'S EYES (Job 12:13, 28:23, Ps 111:10, Col 2:3).

→ *God alone is the source of true wisdom. Do you agree?*

THE PROBLEM: We have a world that sees almost entirely through SECULAR eyes ... With agendas PROMISING one thing, but DELIVERING something very different.

→ *What do we mean by a 'secular eye?' How has that evolved over the last 50 years? Can you give any examples?*

FIVE PASSAGES

2 Cor 4:4 → The god of this age has BLINDED, is BLINDING unsuspecting people to the TRUE LIGHT.

→ *What is he blinding and how is he doing it?*

Eph 6:11-12, 2 Cor 10:3-5 → We are engaged in a STRUGGLE and it's not against FLESH & BLOOD, but against RULERS & AUTHORITIES & spiritual forces of EVIL.

2 Cor 11:14-15 → If you remove the bright, shiny MASK, what lies beneath is altogether SINISTER.

→ *How does he masquerade as an angel of light? Why does he masquerade as an angel of light?*

Isa 5:20-24 → Much of what was once considered GOOD is now being called EVIL ... and vice-versa.

→ *What good things are now being called evil? What evil things are now being called good? How does this leave Bible-believing Christians in a very awkward position? What are the agendas behind all of that?*

THREE STEPS TOWARDS WISDOM

1. We must be STRONG in the WORD (Prov 1:23, Matt 7:24).

- * His Word is the definitive revelation of TRUTH.
- * His Word is the ROCK upon which we must build.
- * His Word is the FORTRESS in which we're kept safe.
- * His Word is the LIGHT that will steer us away from darkness.

→ *Why must we be strong in the Word? How do we get strong in the Word? How does this help us live wisely?*

2. Accept, once and for all, that the WORLD is NOT wise.

- * Wisdom is NOT the MAJORITY view, the LOUDEST voice or the most dramatic BULLY.

→ *Is this the enemy's tactic? How does it work? Why is it successful? How do we oppose or resist it?*

- * So much of what is out there PURPORTING to be wisdom is actually UNGODLY, even DEMONIC.
- * Seeking to drive a WEDGE between you and God.
- * Pulling you in the OPPOSITE direction into PAIN, ANGER, OFFENCE, UNBELIEF OR FEAR.

→ *What elements of 'worldly wisdom' are actually having the effect of leading people into pain, anger, offence, unbelief or fear?*

- * If the driving force is NOT God, the outcome is very unlikely to be wisdom, even if it's MASQUERADING as an angel of light, even if the SECULAR MEDIA is pounding you with it, even if the POLITICIANS are voting for it.

3. Let the WISE ONE lead you (Eph 1:17, James 1:5, 1 Cor 2:10).

- * The Holy Spirit KNOWS what the Father KNOWS, SEES what the Father SEES and PRIORITISES what the Father PURPOSES.
- * As always, it is so important to CULTIVATE your RELATIONSHIP with the Holy Spirit.

→ *How can the input of the Holy Spirit help us to make wise decisions, say wise things and avoid foolishness?*