

A POOR MAN'S WISDOM

Solomon gave a parable of wisdom that greatly impressed him – “Also this I came to see as wisdom under the sun, and it impressed me.” (Eccl.9:13)

Solomon entitled this parable, A Poor Man's Wisdom (Eccl.9:14-15).

This wisdom impressed Solomon to the degree that he drew the following three conclusions or principles regarding A Poor Man's Wisdom – “So I said.” (Eccl.9:16a)

Pay special attention to the phrase, **Better Than**, in each of the three principles of divine wisdom.

- 1st “Wisdom is **better than** (tobah) [strength]. But the wisdom of the poor man is despised and his words are not heeded.” (Eccl.9:16b).
- 2nd “The words of the wise heard in quietness are **better than** the shouting (mi-zeaqa) of a ruler among fools.” (Eccl.9:17)
- 3rd “Wisdom is **better than** weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.” (Eccl.9:18)

This lesson will study five aspects of the importance of divine wisdom even when it is despised and rejected as in the parable of A Poor Man's Wisdom.

1. The Hebrew noun for divine wisdom used in our lesson text is **chakemah**.

It refers to the practical or application side of the word of God cycled through the human soul by faith.

(Eccl.9:15) “But there was found in it a poor wise man and he delivered the city by his wisdom. Yet no one remembered that poor man.”

This is an example of what Jesus meant when He said, “Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” (Matt.11:19)

This Hebrew word dominates Wisdom Literature of the Bible (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes). It is used to show how the divine wisdom of the word of God should be lived in the devil's world.

Solomon used this wisdom as a Spiritually Mature Believer as an example for others. One famous example was his ruling on the custody of a child (1 Kings 3:16-28). The Bible declares that Solomon's fame of divine wisdom surpassed the wisdom of the sons of the East and Egypt (1 Kings 4:29-30, 34).

2. The Greek word used for the Hebrew word **chakemah** is **Sophia**.

Sophia was the noblest form of knowledge to the Greeks. It was insight into the true nature of a thing.

Aristotle taught that Sophia was an attainable and quite specific knowledge. It was the most complete form of knowledge – “For he who knows first causes knows all things.”

Sophia not only knows what results from origins, but the truth of the origins themselves.

Solomon expanded on this idea in Prov.3:19 – “The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens.”

Notice how Solomon personalized divine wisdom in Prov.8:22-23

“The Lord possessed **me** at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. From everlasting **I** was established, from the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.” (**Proverbs 1—9**)

3. **Divine wisdom is the practical side of the omniscience of God to mankind.**

(Rom.16:27) “To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever, Amen.”

(Job.28:12-13) Job asks, “But where can **wisdom** be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man does not know its value, nor is it found in the land of the living.”

(Job 28:20) “Where then does **wisdom** come from? And where is the place of understanding?”

(Job 28:23-24) “God understands its way; and He knows its place. For He looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens.”

(Job 28:28; Prov.1:7) “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is **wisdom**; and to depart from evil is understanding.’”

Solomon declared that any man that finds divine wisdom finds the tree of life:

(Prov.3:18) “She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, and happy are all who hold her fast.”

(Prov.8:33-35) “Heed instruction and **be wise**, and do not neglect it. Blessed is the man who listens to **me**, watching daily at **my** gates, waiting at **my** doorposts. For he who finds **me** finds life (zoe), and obtains favor from the Lord.”

4. **There are two sources and types of wisdom and they are in opposition to one another in the world (James 3:13-18).**

- **God** is the source of Divine Wisdom. We call it divine viewpoint thinking (DV)
- **Satan** is source worldly wisdom. We call it cosmos diabolicus thinking (CD)

Paul discusses both of these in 1 Cor.1-2 (Matt.25:41). Paul asks four questions regarding promoters of worldly wisdom in (1 Cor.1:20).

Paul declares that the world can not come to know God by worldly wisdom – “For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God.” (1 Cor.1:21a)

Paul declares that the Jew search by signs and the Greeks search for God by worldly wisdom and neither can find divine wisdom (1 Cor.1:22). Because it is only found through Jesus Christ – “But we preach Christ crucified, to the **Jews** a stumbling block, and to **Gentiles** foolishness. But to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.” (1 Cor.1:23-24)

5. **The library card into God’s library of Divine Wisdom is Faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.2:1-5, 12-16; Rom.8:15-17; Eph.1:7-10).**

Only regenerated (Saved) people have access to divine wisdom – “For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor.1:18)

“But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” (1 Cor.1:30; 2 Tim.3:15)