

EVANGEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

1545 S. 135th St. West, Wichita, KS 67235

(316) 942-5882

E-Mail Address: church@evangelpca.org

Web Page: [Http://www.evangelpca.org](http://www.evangelpca.org)

Sunday Worship 10:45 AM

Senior Pastor: Donald W. Rackley

Associate Pastor: Tim Rackley

September

2010

Volume 22 No. 9

The Wisdom God Gives

What is wisdom? It is distinct from knowledge in the general sense. It is not simply the capacity to grasp great bodies of learning. If that were the case there are many wise men who are really fools.

In the book of *Proverbs* wisdom is given as truth for living. Wisdom teaches us how to come to grips with the realities of life, so that our lives will be meaningful and successful. Truth for living is the foundation for Hebrew thought. The Hebrews had little use for what the Greeks called philosophy.

The Greeks wanted to know the ultimate principles which stand behind things. They discussed and debated the details continually. The Jews said, you have to do something, not just know something to get on in life. And you must know and do the right thing. To know the right is not necessarily to do it. The wise man knows the right and does it. Wisdom is the junction of the good and the true. James picks up this idea in James 1:22, "But prove yourselves doers of the Word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves." The book of *Proverbs* is very useful. We can memorize portions of it for guidance. One popular passage many people memorize is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." To just memorize, however, will not make one wise, nor give him a happy life.

In the book of *Proverbs* wisdom is more than clever little sayings or little hints about how to run your life. Wisdom is personified, she becomes a person. "Wisdom shouts in the street, she lifts her voice in the square," Proverbs 1:20. Jesus uses the same personification in Matthew 11:19b, "Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." Here He unites this life to that life beyond death where the fruits of wisdom are clearly seen.

Both John and Jesus came proclaiming the way of eternal salvation. They had different styles, but they both were rejected. In fact both had become the objects of disparaging remarks by the religious leaders, Matthew 11:18-19. But, "Wisdom is proved right by her deeds." The ultimate verdict lies not with these critics, but with the outcome. The Jews might criticize God's message, but God's message will prevail and thus His messenger vindicated. Victory is on the side of truth.

The Apostle Paul takes wisdom to its final and most profound expression; I Corinthians 1: 26-30, "For consider, brothers, the way God called you; that not many of you, in accordance with human standards, were wise, not many influential, not many of high birth. Just the opposite: God chose what the world calls foolish to put the wise to shame, what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame, what the world calls of low degree, yea, what it counts as nothing and what it thinks does not exist, God chose to put a stop to what it thinks exists, so that no mortal man might ever boast in the presence of God. So you owe it all to Him through union with Christ Jesus, whom God has made our wisdom, our means of right standing, our consecration, and our redemption, so that, as the Scripture says, 'Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.'" (Williams Translation) Jesus Christ is the key to all of life. If you know Him and His ways you will be able to fit the pieces of life together. He says, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."—Matthew 11:28-30