

*The Light - Junior Series*  
*Lesson 108*

*God's Wisdom*



*2018*

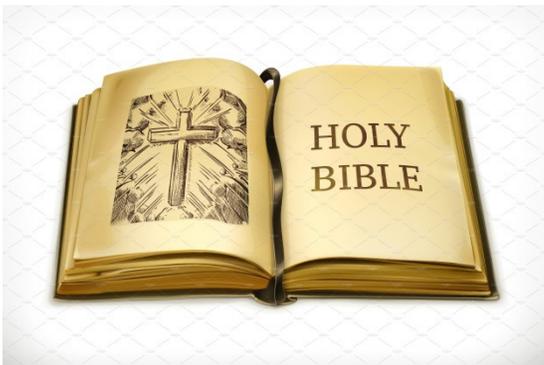
## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior; you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sins of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



## LESSON

In the book of James in the New Testament of our Bible, James teaches us exactly what we need to do to be able to live daily to please God. To please God means to live a life making the right choices, those that God loves. James 1:5 "But if any of you lacks wisdom, **let him ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without scolding, and it will be given to him."



The book of **Proverbs** in the Old Testament is a companion to the book of **James** in that it too talks about wisdom. **Proverbs** also tells us how to make the right choices in our daily living to please God.

But first, what is "wisdom"? What is God's Wisdom? The Hebrew word for "wisdom" is *chokmah* and in the Bible it means **to know the right way to do something...God's way**. In other words, wisdom from the Word...the good kind...is knowing what the right thing to do is and then doing it. Also it means to make the right choices and take the right actions in our daily lives according to God's will. You know He loves us and has made all the arrangements we need to live the way He wants us to. He has provided EVERYTHING we need to do so. It is not by our power we live, it is by His power and plan...the power from the Holy Spirit who lives inside our bodies after we believe in Jesus as our Savior.

Prov 1:1-7 "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: (2) to know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, (3) To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; (4) To give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and responsibility, (5) a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man

of understanding will get wise counsel, (6) to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. (7) The fear (respect) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools hate wisdom and instruction.”



Notice that wisdom begins with instruction. Wisdom is alive in understanding. Wisdom leads to wise choices and behavior and wisdom is instruction in righteousness, as well as justice...the justice of God. 2 Tim 3:16-17 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for

correction, for training in righteousness; (17) so that the man of God may be acceptable, equipped for every good work (God’s plan for you).”

Wisdom, the good kind, is God’s essence or perfect character in action through us. It is His righteousness in action. It is His love at work. Remember, kids, He wants the best for us.



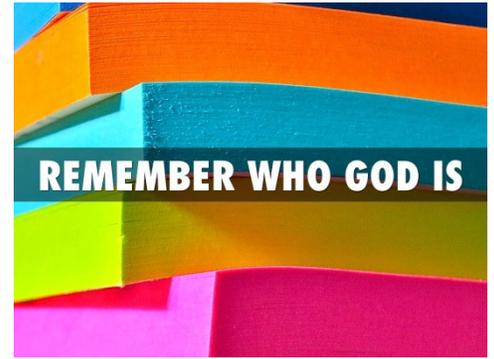
Notice that there are three kinds of people introduced here in Proverbs 1:1-7. “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: (2) to know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, (3) To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; (4) To give prudence to the **naïve**, to the **youth** knowledge and responsibility, (5) a **wise man** will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, (6) to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. (7) The fear (respect) of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; **fools** hate wisdom and instruction.”

There it is in plain English: the naïve youth, the wise man of understanding, and the fool (dedicated to a foolish life).



Which kind are you, kids? Notice that the wise person is one who understands that wisdom is a life-long commitment to learning, understanding, and wise behavior. The beginning of wisdom, the root of wisdom, is fear or respect of the Lord. This is who you want to be...the wise man. You will then please God.

To understand who God is, look at His perfect essence or character: especially His righteousness, His sovereignty (ruler-ship), His omnipotence (all-powerful), His omniscience (all-knowing), His omnipresence (everywhere present) and His love. Now all of that is God's wisdom. This perfect essence is the source of all real wisdom...the good kind...TRUTH. Prov 2:6 "For the Lord gives (us) wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."



The Lord gives wisdom graciously. This is exactly what James is telling us in James 1:5. "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without scolding, and it will be given to him." So, ask away, kids and He will give you His wisdom, which is TRUTH.

Now, what is the opposite of wisdom? Remember you learn a lot about something by looking at its opposite. The opposite of wisdom is foolishness. Or a word that shows up for the first time in chapter 5 of Proverbs: "folly", which means stupidity, foolishness, and recklessness.



The opposite of the wise man is the fool...a really stupid person, a reckless person, a fool to the max...one who rejects God's wonderful wisdom.

Okay we've been using the expressions "real wisdom" and "the good kind" of wisdom because as James will tell us in chapter 3, there are two kinds of wisdom in this world, and they are as different as **night** and **day**.



SATAN

In addition to the wisdom from God...the good kind, there's another kind of wisdom...a bad kind. The good kind of wisdom is from above but the bad wisdom is from below and demonic. This bad wisdom is the wisdom of the world...Satan's thinking and worldwide plan. He's Jesus' arch enemy and he hates all things from God. So he deceives mankind and counterfeits everything he can to lead mankind away from our wonderful God.

You remember who took over ruling the world after Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden, right? Sure you do. It's the Satan himself...the devil. God gave Adam ruler-ship of the world when He created him from the dust of the ground.



But even in the perfect Garden, Adam sinned. He fell for the temptation from the devil and when he sinned he lost that ruler-ship and the devil took over the world. The devil's wisdom is evil and he's been fooling the world ever since.

Let's see what James says about wisdom in James 3:13-18. "Who among you is wise (you are we hope) and has understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. (14) But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. (15) This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but it is earthly, natural, and demonic. (16) For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. (17) But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. (18) And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Let's contrast the two wisdoms: wisdom from above or demonic wisdom (from the devil); earthy wisdom versus heavenly wisdom; fleshly wisdom (our physical bodies) versus wisdom from the Spirit (the Holy Spirit who lives inside our bodies); demonic wisdom versus divine wisdom ; clear wisdom versus confusing wisdom; unstable wisdom versus rock-solid wisdom.

**Heavenly Wisdom VS. Earthly Wisdom  
A Contrast in Their Fruits**

- **Earthy wisdom:**
  - Causes confusion
  - Every evil thing
- **Heavenly wisdom:**
  - Produces peace
  - Bears the fruit of righteousness

You can be wise in what is good...an expert in how to perform what is good. Unfortunately, you can also be wise in what is evil...an expert...a specialist of evil. Choose the good wisdom from God. It is His love at work for us.

We are called by God to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. BUT we MUST be INSTRUCTED in God's wisdom, His understanding, and behavior so we can be wise. Chose the wisdom from above...from God.

Who is instructing you, kids? Where are you gaining understanding? What behavior are you demonstrating? Let's hope it's the wisdom from above so you too can hear what the believers in Rome heard from the Apostle Paul: Rom 16:19-20 "For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. (20) The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you."

You know that God not only gives us wisdom from His Word but He gifts us with authority figures who also teach us His good kind of wisdom. The first gift of wisdom from God is our parents. No matter who they are (or aren't), parents (or grandparents or adoptive parents or foster parents) bring us face to face with the challenge to respect authority. This is their job!



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If we are blessed, we are given Godly parents or Godly grandparents or Godly coaches who also teach us real wisdom.

Prov 1:8-9 "Hear, my son, your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching; (9) Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head and ornaments about your neck."

The first time the word wisdom appears in the Old Testament is in the book of Exodus in connection with the construction of the tabernacle according to the LORD's precise instructions. Exo 28:3 "You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have gifted with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron's garments to sanctify him that he may minister as priest to me."

Notice that wisdom...the good kind...**comes from the LORD**. Notice that wisdom is found where there is **work to be done** in obedience to the exact instructions given by the LORD. Ex 25:8-9 "Let them construct a sanctuary for me that I may dwell among them. (9) According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall construct it." Notice that wisdom is associated with skill. Wisdom is tied together with craftsmanship.



Speaking of craftsmanship, do you know that the first time the devil appears on the scene in the Bible he is described as “crafty,” and that one of the reasons Eve ate the fruit was because she was deceived into thinking it was desirable to make one wise (bad kind of wisdom here!).

So in closing, kids, always choose the good wisdom from above...God’s wisdom from His Word. Study the Bible everyday...grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord...ALWAYS the GOOD wisdom.

Close in prayer.

Prepared from Pastor John Farley’s lesson on 1-3-2016  
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