
INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 4:7 (NKJV) says:

⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; *Therefore* get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.

That's a good word, but where and how does one get wisdom?

In James 1:5 (NKJV) the Word says:

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

That scripture clearly answers that two part question. The "where" is from God. The "how" is simply ask God for it. As a bonus, He'll give us wisdom in generous amounts and He won't express disapproval of disappointment because we've asked Him. We're going to continue in our study with:

GOD'S CONCEALED WISDOM

1 Corinthians 2:6-9 (NKJV)

⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

⁹ But as it is written: "*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*"

From our previous lesson we learned that when Paul said he didn't speak with words of wisdom (1 Cor. 2: 1,4) he was referring to human wisdom.

⁶ ***However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.***

Vs. 6 - In verse 6 of our text, Paul plainly details two qualifications for the wisdom he does express. **First**, this wisdom is only for the mature in Christ. This wisdom would be wasted on the unbeliever because they wouldn't be able to understand it and young believers aren't ready to receive it. They will trust it and believe it, but they will lack the maturity to understand it well enough to put it to good use. Only the mature Christian can appreciate and use this Godly wisdom.

Second, this wisdom doesn't come from the wisdom of the times, nor does it come from the ruling class. The ruling class and the wisdom of the age will eventually perish, but Godly wisdom is eternal.

Let's compare and contrast Godly wisdom with the wisdom of our age and see how our "new age" wisdom stacks up. (i.e. fight fire with fire, survival of the fittest, tithing is old testament, compromise for the cause of peace)

⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

Vs. 7 – Paul declares that the wisdom spoken from God has been a “mystery” or a “hidden purpose” of God which was before time began for our benefit. This “hidden purpose” refers to how our salvation would be accomplished through the precious blood of the Lamb!

⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Vs. 8 – Paul is sure that if the “rulers” of this world (Romans, Jewish leaders and even Satan) knew who Jesus really was, and what His purpose was, they would not have crucified Him. Surely if Satan knew what God’s plan was he probably wouldn’t have entered Judas to betray Christ in the first place in a feeble attempt to thwart the salvation plan of God. Jesus wouldn’t have been accused by the Chief Priests if they really knew who He was. No accusation, no trial, no crucifixion! Thank God the real Jesus wasn’t revealed. For without the shedding of blood there is no remission. (Heb. 9:22). But make no mistake, the rulers’ blindness was self-inflicted. (Acts 4:25-28)

⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Vs. 9 – Paul tells us that if we believe what God planned and executed for our salvation and our glory is great, just wait and see what else He has in store! Paul didn’t have the book of Revelation like we have. Paul had less information about God’s plan for those that love Him than we do now!

*Surrounded by you glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for you Jesus
Or in awe of you be still
Will I stand in your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine*