

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse sixteen of chapter three. Last week I exegeted in part Col 3:16. When time expired I was in the process of teaching a categorical study of Wisdom.
2. Before we continue that study you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. Let me first give you an expanded translation of Col 3:12-15 and then, after a brief review, we will resume new material at point 12 on page 3.

Col 3:12 Therefore in view of what we have just learned, you must clothe and invest yourselves like the elected ones of God, set-apart and loved by each member of the Trinity, manifesting an emotional stability and control consistent with your holy and beloved status; full of virtue love and kindness, modesty and humility of mind; always displaying stability even under pressure;

Col 3:13 endure and tolerate without complaint your fellow believers while also being gracious and forgiving to others. And if anyone has a complaint against another, they should forgive just as Christ forgave;

Col 3:14 but over and above all the ethical imperatives listed, we must love in the Agape sense, which such love is and keeps on being that which holds together all the imperatives in perfect unity, ready to perform that which God demands or "needs done."

Col 3:15 and you must let the peace, stability and harmony of Christ rule, guide and direct in the sphere of your right lobes; unto which such peace and harmony you were also called as an integral part of the body of Christ; and be you thankful.

4. So far we have exegeted that portion of Col 3:16 which in the KJV has been rendered "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; ...*" noting it might better be translated "**You must again and again decide to let the Word of Christ dwell richly and abundantly in your soul by means of the application of the doctrine in the sphere of your soul ...**"
5. The entire verse has been translated:

KJV-New Sentence

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

The Doctrine of Wisdom

1. **Chakmah** is the basic word in the Old Testament for wisdom. It can be found one-hundred and forty-six times. Well over half of the instances of the use of wisdom, or one

of its adjectival derivatives, are found in Job, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

2. These books are often called the wisdom books. The wisdom books of the Old Testament, however, are quite varied in structure and content as is the handling of the word wisdom. In Ecclesiastes it is disparaged to the extent Solomon uses it in the intellectual sense, noting sarcastically, that even the very wisest of men die.

3. Wisdom then in Ecclesiastes is often used to mean intelligence or skill. But it is not highly regarded by the writer, even though God had made him the wisest man in the world. Notice what Solomon says in Ecc 1:18 "In much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."

4. In Job, Proverbs and Psalms it is primarily used to describe wisdom in the sense of knowing and respecting God. Wisdom in this sense serves as an insular to continual sorrow.

5. Doctrine in the soul makes one truly wise. The wise one is promised blessing, and metabolized doctrine facilitates recovery from sorrow when the details of life turn south.

6. A spiritual believer with a soul full of doctrine will demonstrate capacity for good judgment and sound decision making because his thinking will be based on the principles found in the Word.

7. The word wisdom is often used in Job. The word wisdom is used by Job and by his comforters alike. But there is a very distinctive use in Job 28, a chapter devoted to praising true wisdom—a knowledge of God. Wisdom and understanding as used in this chapter, refer not to mere intelligence, but to rectitude as an expression of divine viewpoint and thus straight thinking.

8. Job 28:28 provides a unique definition of wisdom, "The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

9. In the Book of Proverbs wisdom is similarly used.

10. In the first of the book (Pro 1:7), at the end of the first section (Pro 9:10), and at the end of the book (Pro 31:26), wisdom is defined as simply divine viewpoint. Wisdom as used in these three verses does not describe skill or intelligence; it is a description of moral quality.

Pro 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy one is understanding.

Pro 31:26 The perfect wife openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

11. Proverbs is the ultimate wisdom book. In Proverbs chapters 1-9 wisdom is personified as a righteous woman. This is natural, for wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun. A contrast is drawn between a foolish woman, the harlot, vis-a-vis she who is wise.

12. That opposite of wisdom is not ignorance, but sin. In Pro 9:1-18 the contrast is most pointed. Wisdom and the foolish woman give the same call to the passersby. The one calls to the fear of the Lord while the other calls to sin.

12.1 The question is always there? to whom will you answer? In Pro 9:1-12 wisdom calls and in Pro 9:13-18 the lady "Folly" calls.

Wisdom Speaks

Pro 9:1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.

Pro 9:2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

Pro 9:3 She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.

Pro 9:4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

Pro 9:5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.

Pro 9:6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

Pro 9:7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.

Pro 9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Pro 9:9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

Pro 9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Pro 9:11 For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

Pro 9:12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer."

Folly Speaks

Pro 9:13 The woman Folly is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge.

Pro 9:14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city,

Pro 9:15 calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way.

Pro 9:16 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

Pro 9:17 "Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!"

Pro 9:18 But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

13. Proverbs 8 is called by many the wisdom Proverb. In this proverb wisdom (or doctrine) is said to exist before time was.

Wisdom's Call

Pro 8:1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

Pro 8:2 On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

Pro 8:3 beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:
 Pro 8:4 "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.
 Pro 8:5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.
 Pro 8:6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.
 Pro 8:7 My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.
 Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.
 Pro 8:9 To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.
 Pro 8:10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,
 Pro 8:11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
 Pro 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.
 Pro 8:13 To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.
 Pro 8:14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.
 Pro 8:15 By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;
 Pro 8:16 by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.
 Pro 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
 Pro 8:18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.
 Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.
 Pro 8:20 I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,
 Pro 8:21 bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.
 Pro 8:22 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;
 Pro 8:23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.
 Pro 8:24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;
 Pro 8:25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,
 Pro 8:26 before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.
 Pro 8:27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,
 Pro 8:28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
 Pro 8:29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
 Pro 8:30 Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,
 Pro 8:31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.
 Pro 8:32 "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.
 Pro 8:33 Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it.
 Pro 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.
 Pro 8:35 For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD.
 Pro 8:36 But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death."

14. In the remainder of the Book of Proverbs there are many tributes and warm praise for the wise man. For example, the wise son is contrasted with the foolish son. Pro 10:1 and 20

Pro 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Pro 10:20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is of a little worth.

15. Knowledge is a pleasant thing and when made a part of a person's understanding it will be evident in the mouth of that person. Pro 22:17-18

Pro 22:17 Pay attention and listen to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

Pro 22:18 for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips.

16. While wisdom is personified in the Old Testament and shown to have existed eternally, it is centered in the New Testament in one person, the Lord Jesus Christ. 1Co 1:30 and Col 2:2-3

1Co 1:28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things-- and the things that are not-- to nullify the things that are,

1Co 1:29 so that no one may boast before him.

1Co 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

1Co 1:31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Col 2:2 My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

Col 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

17. Christ in His human nature increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man; upon Him said Isaiah shall rest the Holy Spirit whose primary attribute is to convey wisdom. Luk 2:52; Heb 5:8 and Isa 11:2

Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Isa 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

18. As a result, men asked, "Whence hath this man this wisdom?" (Mat 13:54), not realizing that a greater than Solomon was in their presence. (Mat 12:42).

Mat 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Mat 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

19. Of Christ Paul writes that He is the power and the wisdom of God, stressing that Christ's life and death were God's wise plan of salvation. 1Co 1:22-25

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

1Co 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

20. The Greeks with their philosophy sought wisdom (1Co 1:22) and produced such great men as Plato and Aristotle, but extant Greek philosophy omitted God. God in His infinite wisdom, by contrast, used the cross to reveal the only way man could be saved.

20.1 The gospel proved to be a stumbling block to the Jews, who were trying to obtain salvation by good works; and "foolishness" to the Greeks. Rom 9:30-33

Rom 9:30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

Rom 9:31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

Rom 9:32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;

Rom 9:33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offense: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

20.2 The Jews were offended at the thought of the crucifixion and that they were so impotent someone must die for their sins. They say the same thing today: "what's wrong with us now?" The Greeks considered simple faith in a substitutionary atonement too easy. Yet the atoning death of the Lord Jesus Christ is the epitome of all wisdom since it solves the greatest problem of the world and man, namely, sin. Eph 3:10

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

21. God's wisdom manifested in His plan of salvation met the needs of a holy God, a righteous God who required that His protocol be kept perfectly, and the perfect sinless Son of God met this need; and by imputation He became the righteousness of God for

us. The plan was sufficient for all men.

21.1 Only one who was both God and man could have pulled this off. Yes God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died as a substitute for us.

22. While Paul did not preach according to the wisdom of the world, still he preached the hidden wisdom of God which can be discerned when God gives man the guidance and help of the Holy Spirit. 1Co 2:7-10

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

23. God is desirous that man have and know His wisdom. Acquiring His wisdom is the reason we are left here in time.

Jam 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. Eph 1:8-10

Eph 1:8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Eph 1:9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

Eph 1:10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment-- to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

24. Wisdom is "from above" and is contrasted with the earthly human wisdom; the wisdom of this world is a counterfeit program inspired by Satan and driven by his demons.

Jam 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.

Jam 3:14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Jam 3:15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

Jam 3:16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Jam 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

Jam 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

Col 2:20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

Col 2:21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

Col 2:22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.

Col 2:23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

25. God's wisdom must be revealed or given to men. This is done supernaturally by God the Holy Spirit Who reveals God's wisdom to every positive believer.

Luk 21:15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

Joh 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Joh 16:13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

1Co 2:14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1Co 2:15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

1Co 2:16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

26. Doctrine is presented by the pastor-teacher and God the Holy Spirit teaches people who have an appetite for spiritual food. Positive people come when Bible doctrine is taught.

Col 1:28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Tit 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Tit 2:2 Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

Tit 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Tit 2:4 Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children,

Tit 2:5 to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

Tit 2:6 Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Tit 2:15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

End Lesson Taught 3-17-10