

Pathways To Faith

By Dr. Willie Holley

Surviving Pandemics Requires Godly Wisdom!

So often we hear individuals speak of the thirst and search for knowledge and understanding. As we continue to seek direction during this pandemic, I would encourage everyone to seek Godly wisdom as the key to unlock the mysteries they are seeking to understand. Wisdom is often said to be the wise use of an individual's knowledge of the will of God. Simply stated, when we walk in wisdom, we pattern our lives or our walk after the instructions in the Word of God, the Bible. In the book of Ephesians, Paul says this at chapter 5, verses 15-17: "*See then that you walk circumspectly (carefully), not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is...*" The great King Solomon is universally considered to be one of the wisest people to ever live on the earth. He demonstrated great wisdom throughout his reign as King of Israel. We notice that he was a man who constantly sought Godly direction early in his life when he needed wisdom to lead the people. However, like many others he began to lean on his own understanding later in life only to conclude that his folly was all vanity. (Ecclesiastes 1:1-4) King Solomon realized that what really mattered was to *fear (respect) God and keep His commandments*. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14) King Solomon admonishes us in his Proverbs to "Get wisdom! Get understanding! (Proverbs 4:5) Verse 7 of this Proverb says, "Wisdom is the principal thing: Therefore, get wisdom." The Holy Scriptures teach us "*it is better to get wisdom than to have gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver*" (Prov. 16:16). We cannot underestimate the value of the role wisdom plays in our Christian walk. Proverbs 1:7 say "... *Fools despise wisdom and instruction.*" We see the term wisdom used in many ways in Scripture. There is not a single phrase that adequately defines wisdom. However, through careful study, we realize that Godly wisdom requires us to have knowledge of God's Word. Our knowledge of God's Word allows us to properly or wisely use our knowledge to guide our decision making. In the Jewish culture, one was considered wise if they were knowledgeable and well versed in the laws of Moses. In the Gospels of the New Testament, "wisdom" is a synonym for knowledge of the laws and ways of God. When the people heard Jesus teaching in the synagogues and other places, they considered Him wise because of His vast knowledge and understanding of kingdom law. Jesus displayed superior wisdom to the earthly scholars of His day because of His intimate relationship with God the Father and the wisdom that came with that relationship. He always sought to do the will of the Father, just as Solomon admonished each of us to do as our principal duty in this life. God wants us to seek wisdom from Him. We are told that if any of us desires wisdom, we should ask of God and He will give it to us freely without quarreling. (See James 1:5) In Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth, he strongly warns them of the fallacy of leaning on their earthly knowledge and understanding as their guide for making decisions. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-20, the Apostle Paul says that God Himself will destroy the wisdom of man and bring it to nothing. We see that God has made foolish the wisdom of this world. If we understand these scriptures and truly desire to please God in our Christian walk, we would seek Godly wisdom to set our moral compass in this life, while allowing the will of God to be the standard by which we live.

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