

10 February 2021

Text: Ecclesiastes 8:1-7

Colossians 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”: “Who is as the wise man?”

That one who searches the Word carefully, attends to the diligent reading of it, meditates in it day and night, and practices it in his/her life; THAT answers the question, “Who is as the wise man?” BUT how does THIS true wisdom FIRST come to any human soul? Through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 3:15: “And that from a child, thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”

ii. *Psalms 111:10 “The fear of the LORD is the BEGINNING (Genesis) of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments”*

When God saves ANY soul, that soul cannot lie dormant, (sit on the sidelines of Christianity), that born-again soul will thrive and mature and grow and increase in wisdom and in the knowledge of God. *Proverbs 1:5-7*

If you would be filled with God-Like wisdom, (as the wise man) you must be a spiritual miner. For WISDOM is only given to those who seek it, search for it, dig, cry out, and pray for it. *Proverbs 2:1-6*

And then: Who may interpret and understand this life? Who understands different times and seasons? Those that possess the wisdom of God from the Word! They understand times, seasons, God’s providence in this fallen/sinful world, especially in these last days!

And then: The wisdom of God IN YOUR SOUL will change you; it will be visibly seen in the brightness and strength of your countenance! *Ecclesiastes 7:19*

(V2-5): Solomon teaches us how to conduct ourselves in the presence of the king. Who is as a wise man (in the presence of the King)?

Remember that we don’t serve under an earthly king in our nation; we have NO idea what that is like. We do know that the ancient monarchs/kings of old ruled with absolute authority. Their word was the law. When you came into the presence of the king, (of Xerxes, Caesar, Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Solomon, David, you came “prepared” and with the right attitude! *Proverbs 30:29-32, READ Ecclesiastes 8:2-5*

NO, we don’t have an earthly king as was Solomon; but we do have a heavenly King, who is MUCH greater than Solomon! Matthew 12:42

Who is as the wise man/woman? Those that keep the Kings commandment:

John 14:15: But when we disobey the commands of God and of Christ, it is like saying: we will not have this man to reign over us!

Who is as a wise man/woman? Those that are not hasty to depart the King’s presence! If you would possess the King’s wisdom, you MUST not rush from the King’s presence!

What is hasting from the King’s presence? It is closing our Bibles, and then allowing our minds to immediately disengage from what we just read/studied/considered in the Word. Or, while we are still praying, we’re already thinking about what we have to do

after we finish praying; and so even in our prayers, we often hasten from the King's presence. Or, if, immediately after the church service, we head straight for the door, as if we can't wait to leave the presence of Christ and His people!

Think of it like this; if you are standing before the President of the United States, and he is speaking to you personally; but then, in the middle of him speaking to you, you turn around and walk away before he finishes speaking to you. This would be a terrible insult/disrespecting to him. Think of how we insult our Lord when we treat Him thus!

And then, don't come into the presence of the (The King), your LORD with wickedness in your heart!

An earthly king cannot see into our hearts, but the Lord Jesus does see what is in our hearts! *Matthew 9:1-4, 16:6-8, Hebrews 4:12-13*

You might hide your heart from an earthly king, but not from the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is the power in the Word of the King: (V3B-4)

You might question an earthly king, but no one questions the King of Heaven.

Daniel 4:27, 34-37: This king learned of the power of the King of Heaven!

(V5): "Whoso keepeth the king's commandment shall feel no evil thing":

We read a moment ago, don't stand in the presence of the King with evil in your heart; now, beloved, the blessing of keeping the King's commandment is that you will feel no evil thing. You will be blessed of the Lord!

Don't forget what we read in (V1): Who is AS A wise man? That one that honors God by obedience to His commandments. This is wisdom in practice!

I think back to the Book of Deuteronomy when the LORD commanded Moses to speak those MANY BLESSINGS to the people of Israel IF they obeyed the commandments of the LORD, TO DO them.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, Psalm 1, Luke 11:28, John 14:21

(V5B-6): "A wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. Because to every purpose there is time and judgment":

The wise DISCERN, or, they know, recognize, and perceive what the unwise and fools miss and do not see in the times, seasons, and circumstances of this life.

Psalm 31:15, 90:12

The wise make good use of, and improve their short time that they have in this life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Ecclesiastes 9:10-12, Romans 13:11-14, Ephesians 5:15-20

(V6B): "Therefore the misery of man is great upon him"

That is, to those who do not discern/recognize time and judgment; who do not prepare their hearts for eternity; they live this life as if it is their heaven.

(V7): "For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?"

We don't know what tomorrow holds for us in this life; but we do know and understand what tomorrow holds for us in the next! Every day of this life is to be in preparation for eternal life. We are to be like the ant! In summer, she prepares for

winter; and so beloved, for us, in life, we must be preparing for death, in time, we must be preparing for eternity.