

Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 25 - The Attributes of God: Wisdom

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Wisdom

- Wisdom is “skill.”
- God’s wisdom is His perfect knowledge of how to act skillfully so that He will accomplish all His good pleasure - to glorify Himself. - MacArthur, pg. 180
- Psa. 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.
- Prov. 9:10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
- Who knows God better than God?

Wisdom

- God always chooses the best goals and the best means to accomplish those goals. - Grudem, pg. 193
- God is skilled at always making the best decisions that will bring the best results by the best possible means.
- God is wise in heart - Job 9:4 God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?
- God created by wisdom.
- Psa. 104:24 O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions—
- Jeremiah 10:12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

Wisdom

- God redeems by His wisdom
- Romans 11:29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
- Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.
- 1 Cor. 2:7 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.

Wisdom

- God is the source of wisdom
- Proverbs 2:6 For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;
- James 1:5 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.
- God is Omniscient (All Wise)
- Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!
- Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Wisdom

- Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.
- Paul affirms that God works wisely in all things that come in our lives, and that through these He advances us toward the goal of conformity to the image of Christ.

Wisdom

- It should be our great confidence and a source of peace day by day to know that God causes all these things to move us toward the ultimate goal He has for us, namely that we might be like Christ and thereby bring glory to Him.
- Such confidence enabled Paul to accept his thorn in the flesh as something that, although painful, God in His wisdom had chosen not to remove.
- 2 Cor. 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Wisdom

- As a communicable attribute we are able and should ask God to give us wisdom when we need it and He promises in His Word that when we do, He will.
- Wisdom, as a skill, is the ability to live a life pleasing to God. This skill is learned and improved primarily from reading and obeying His Word.
- Other sources of wisdom?
- Wisdom produces humility.
- Prov. 11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.
- James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Wisdom

- We can never fully share God's wisdom. There will frequently be times that we will not be able to understand why God has allowed or caused something to happen. Then we have to trust Him knowing He is infinitely wise and we are not, and it pleases Him when we have faith to trust His wisdom even when we do not understand what He is doing.