

- I. The Wisdom of God Part 2: New Testament
- a. Purpose: In this session we shall see what the New Testament teaches about the wisdom of God as an attribute of God so that we can draw implications for our lives.
 - b. Definition of the Wisdom of God:
 - i. Wayne Grudem: “God’s wisdom means that God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals.”¹
 - ii. John Feinberg: “Divine wisdom is an aspect of divine omniscience, but it is not identical with it. Wisdom involves more than merely having all facts at one’s disposal. It also involves knowing how to use those facts to accomplish ends in the best way.”²
 - c. In the New Testament God is praised for His wisdom: “*to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.*” (Romans 16:27)
 - i. This is the last verse in the book of Romans.
 - ii. This is a doxology; that is, it is a literary form issuing praise to God.
 - iii. God is explicitly described as “*the only wise God.*”
 - iv. No other false gods are wise.
 - d. In the New Testament God’s wisdom is contrasted with earthly wisdom: “*Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. 18 And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*” (James 3:13-18)
 - i. Notice how God’s wisdom is called:
 1. “*that which comes down from above*” (v.15)
 2. “*he wisdom from above*” (v.17)
 - ii. There is also counterfeit wisdom which is called:
 1. “*earthly*” (v.16)
 2. “*natural*” (v.16)
 3. “*demonic*” (v.16)
 - iii. The wisdom of God is contrasted with counterfeit wisdom. **What are some contrasts you see?**
 - iv. Notice that there is a moral dimension to wisdom from God.
 - e. In the New Testament we see new information that the attribute of the wisdom of God can be seen in other members of the Trinity
 - i. If God is Triune we would thus expect members of the Trinity to have all the attributes of God including the attribute of wisdom.
 - ii. We see Jesus as God the Son having the attribute of wisdom
 1. “*in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*” (Colossians 2:3)

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan), 193.

² John Feinberg, *No One Like Him* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2001), 253.

- a. The purpose of the book of Colossians is to demonstrate the supremacy of Christ.
 - b. Paul wanted to make sure no one delude the church at Colossae with arguments that sound persuasive but is contrary to God's truth (**Colossians 2:4**).
 - c. To ground the believers Paul pointed out in **verse 3** that all wisdom and knowledge is in Christ.
 - d. Thus, Christ is not only wise but all wisdom is in Christ.
 2. *"but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."* (**1 Corinthians 1:24**)
 - a. For believers Christ is the *"wisdom of God."*
 - b. Again in the context the wisdom of God is connected with salvation provided by God.
 3. *"But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,"* (**1 Corinthians 1:30**)
 - a. For believers Christ *"who became to us wisdom from God."*
 - b. Again in the context the wisdom of God is connected with salvation provided by God.
- iii. We see the Holy Spirit as God also possesses the attribute of wisdom: *"For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;"* (**1 Corinthians 12:8**)
 1. Notice here that this chapter is on spiritual gifts.
 2. One of the spiritual gift is *"the word of wisdom through the Spirit"*
 3. God the Holy Spirit is the one who grants people this gift.
 4. The Spirit possesses wisdom first before He grants it to others.
- f. In the New Testament we see new information that the Gospel, God's way of salvation, reveals His wisdom
 - i. **Ephesians 1:7-9**
 1. Salvation include:
 - a. *"redemption through His blood"* (**v.7**)
 - b. *"the forgiveness of our trespasses"* (**v.7**)
 - c. *"the riches of His grace"* (**v.7**)
 2. How is this mystery of salvation made known to us (**v.9**)? *"in all wisdom and insight"* (**v.8**)
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 1:18**: *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."*
 1. How the world sees the Gospel is foolishness.
 2. It is not.
 3. That is contradicted with the truth that the Gospel is the power of God to save.
 - iii. *"but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;"* (**1 Corinthians 2:7**)
 1. The Gospel is what we speak.
 2. The Gospel here is described as *"the hidden wisdom which God predestined"*

g. Application

- i. Do you believe that the Gospel is the source of true wisdom? Don't be ashamed of it, proclaim it!
- ii. Lack wisdom? Ask God! See **James 1:5**.
- iii. Do you trust in God's plan more than your own plan? Trust in His sovereign wisdom, trust in God.