

06 08 23

Wisdom Pt 1 wisdom not from above

This is a new study on wisdom, and in this teaching we will cover three points (i) Wisdom that is not from above is earthly, devilish, (2) wisdom that is not from above includes envy, (3) wisdom that is not from above includes strife.

More detail from the scriptures on our three points –

1. Wisdom that is not from above is earthly, devilish

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish” (Jam3:15).

God has made foolish the wisdom of this world

“Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?” (1 Cor.1: 20).

Man cannot know God by the wisdom of this world

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor.1: 21).

The wisdom of this world is opposite to the wisdom of God spoken in a mystery

[6] Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

[7] But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory: (1Cor.2: 6 ,7)

We are not to teach in the words of man’s wisdom but in the words given by the Holy Ghost– comparing spiritual things

“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1Cor 2:13)– cf– 1 Cor.2: 13– “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God–

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God...” (1Cor 3:19)

2. Wisdom that is not from above includes envy

[14] But if ye have bitter envying...glory not....

[15] This wisdom descendeth not from above.... (Jam.3: 14, 15)

Envy is rottenness of the bones– Prov.14:30– “A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.”

It is our **heart that is envious**– Prov 23: 17– “Let not thine heart envy sinners: but [be thou] in the fear of the Lord all the day long”.

The source of envy is hatred

“Therefore, as I live, saith the Lord God, I will even do according to thine anger, and according to thine envy which thou hast used out of thy hatred against them; and I will make myself known among them, when I have judged thee” (Eze.35: 11).

Even Pilate knew that the chief priests delivered Jesus over to be crucified– for envy

[17] Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?

[18] For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. (Matt.27: 17, 18)

3. Wisdom that is **not** from above includes strife in our hearts

[14] But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not,.

[15] This wisdom descendeth not from above....(Jam.3: 14, 15)

Strife is contention– Prov 17:14– “The beginning of strife [is as] when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.” See also Prov.22:10

The source of strife is–

* hatred– Prov 10:12– “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.”

* a man full of wrath– Prov.15: 18– “A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but [he that is] slow to anger appeaseth strife”. See also Prov.15: 18, 30:33, and an angry man– Prov.29: 22.

* a froward man (perverse)– Prov.16: 28– “A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.”

* a contentious man– Prov.26: 21– “As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so [is] a contentious man to kindle strife.”

* a talebearer– Prov.26:20– “Where...there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.”

* a proud man– Prov.28: 25– “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.”

Illustration

When a Christian feels called to pastor a church most will, depending on their congregation– attends a bible college (but the scriptural model is to train in house– (2Tim.2: 2). There he will learn man’s ways of interpretation– using man’s wisdom. There he will learn to study the scholars and their many different viewpoints. It is because of these differing opinions that we have confusion and division in the body of Christ. After leaving BCNZ I had much in me that needed to be purged– my pride, and I was not always easily intreated (Jam.3: 17) by those who believed the AB 1611 Bible was scripture. As a graduate I had much to learn, and still do today!

Questions of the scriptures

- i) What is the similarity between the strife and envy”
- ii) How do we combat envy and strife?

Answers from the scriptures

The similarity between strife, envy and their root cause– all are **works of the flesh**

[19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

[20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife...

[21] Envyings, murders, drunkenness...(Gal.5: 19 – 21).

ii) We can only respond to an attack– when we understand the nature of it and the potential fall–out from it. In our example– Satan seduces us and the fall–out is our flesh, our members are propelled to war against the law of our mind (Rom.7: 23)–

* Wisdom of this world is **devilish**. We combat the devil when we resist and rebuke.

* The fall–out is envy and strife– which are works of the **flesh**– which we combat when we mortify the deeds of the body (Rom.8: 13), and our members (Col.3: 5), crucify our flesh (Gal.5: 24) and die daily (1 Cor.15: 31).

Let us not give Satan all the credit for our trials and tribulations– they may start with the devil, but it is our flesh that wars against the law of our mind, bears, fruit of envy and strife. The wisdom of this world is devilish, but the fall–out builds–up our flesh.