

03 09 23

Wisdom Pt 5 A comparison between wisdom from above and wisdom **not** from above.

This is our fifth and final study on wisdom. In our previous teaching we established three points–(i) The beginning of wisdom [from above] – fear the LORD, (ii) the instruction of wisdom [from above] – fear God, and (iii) the understanding of wisdom [from above] is to depart from evil. In this study we provide a comparison of wisdom from above and wisdom **not** from above– in four points– (i) the wisdom of God is evident in the foolishness of preaching to save the lost, (**in comparison**)– (ii) the world by wisdom knew not God, (iii) the wisdom of God is taught when we compare spiritual things with spiritual, (**in comparison**)– iv) the wisdom of the world is taught when we compare ourselves with others.

More detail from the scriptures on our four points –

1. The wisdom of God is evident in the foolishness of preaching to save the lost

“For after that...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor.1: 21).

The foolishness of God is wiser than men– 1 Cor 1:25– “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men”.

In comparison

2. The world by wisdom knew not God

“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).

God made the wisdom of this world foolishness

“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).

The wisdom of this world IS foolishness with God

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness” (1 Cor.3: 19).

The mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride– Prov.14: 3– “In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.”

3. The wisdom of God is taught when we compare spiritual things with spiritual

“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).

John also spoke of the anointing (that “abideth in you”) teaching believers

“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth...” (1 Jn.2:27)– CF– Rom 8:9– “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you”.

Q What is spiritual that we can compare?

A The law is spiritual (Rom7: 14) and the words that Jesus spoke they were spirit (Jn.6: 63). Therefore, the scriptures are spiritual.

Hence, when we compare scripture with scripture the Holy Ghost teaches wisdom.

We do not speak with excellency of speech or wisdom – that the faith of men stand not in the wisdom of men

[1] And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

[5] That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (1Cor.2: 1, 5).

Christ is the wisdom of God– 1 Cor.1:24– “But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God”. See also 1 Cor.1: 30.

In comparison

4. The wisdom of the world is taught when we compare ourselves with others

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Cor.10: 12).

They measure themselves by themselves, they compare themselves among themselves and are NOT wise– they have NO wisdom (from above).

Illustration

When scholars are the source of a teachers wisdom, and therefore ministers of God compare multiple scholars for their sermons– there is no end of books, no end of publishers wanting to publish such “academic” books, no end of students wanting to go to colleges to learn Greek and Hebrew to teach in seminaries and colleges, to receive PHDs, Professorships, be called Dr, Professor (Rom.1: 22).

Imagine the change in the Christian landscape if prospective ministers of God, teachers and pastors simply were taught how to compare scripture with scripture and allow the Holy Ghost to teach wisdom from above– with no personal opinions!

Questions of the scriptures

- i) How does comparing spiritual things with spiritual enable the Holy Ghost to teach wisdom from above?
- ii) why would a Christian teacher reject the wisdom from the Holy Spirit’s teaching?

Answers from the scriptures

i) The Holy Ghost teaches when we compare scripture because– the Spirit moved men of God to write the Scriptures, the scriptures were given by inspiration of God and so when man compares **those** Holy preserved words then the Holy Ghost teaches.

ii) If a Christian was a professor or theology scholar they might reject the teaching due to–

- * Pride– a refusal to humble themselves and see that God uses the foolish of this world to confound the wise (1Cor.1: 27).
- * “Ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart” (Eph.4: 18).
- * Lack of spiritual discernment (1 Cor.2: 14)
- * covetousness– they covet the glory which goes to God when the Spirit teaches.

Let us remember, that those who are long entrenched in man’s wisdom are likely to reject God’s wisdom as foolishness, as the devil has blinded their minds. Please do not get caught up in the wisdom of man which puffs up, but receive the Spirit’s teaching of wisdom which is from above. Then God gets the glory!