

True Wisdom

June 21, 2026

We are starting today in the book of Proverbs 4. First of all, **HAPPY FATHER's Day!** We are thankful to our great heavenly Father for His unspeakable gift! It's always Father's day for God!

Proverbs 4:7 *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

AMPLIFIED: "The beginning of wisdom is: Get [skillful and godly] wisdom [it is preeminent!] And with all your acquiring, get understanding [actively seek spiritual discernment, mature comprehension, and logical interpretation]."

Wisdom is knowledge applied. For instance, I may have plans to build a house, but I don't have the wisdom to put it together. I must learn how to apply that knowledge.

A great deal of value is placed on a person's intellect these days. The higher of an IQ, or his intelligence quotient, the greater the praise, admiration, and position he often receives in society. Take Ken Jennings for example. Very high intellect man. He he won 74 consecutive games on Jeopardy, the longest streak in the show's history, and became the highest-earning American game show contestant. As a result, he won over \$5.5m. Now he runs the show itself. Is he intelligent? Yes, of course. But does that mean he knows the wisdom of God? Not necessarily.

While empirical knowledge and education certainly have their place, God's Word teaches that true wisdom is not measured merely by the accumulation of facts or information, *like Jeopardy*. The standard by which all things are ultimately judged is the truth regarding the wisdom of God's Word.

Without truth, even the most brilliant mind can be deceived. In fact, the greater a person's intellect apart from God and His Word, the greater the potential for that person to be deceived. Intelligence alone does not lead a person to God. The history of mankind is filled with gifted thinkers who devoted their lives to understanding the world around them, yet never came to know the Creator of the universe, or the world around them. The book of James addresses the source of true wisdom and the characteristics that accompany it. Let's look at James.

James 3:13-18 **13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works [or, his conduct out of a good manner of life] with meekness of wisdom. 14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**

Notice that James speaks of two kinds of wisdom. One originates with God and comes down from above. The other is earthly, natural, and ultimately opposed to God's purposes. The issue is not whether a person possesses knowledge, but whether that knowledge is founded upon the truth of God. Next we go to **I Corinthians 3**. This echoes this same truth.

I Corinthians 3:18-20 **Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is**

foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. 20 And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.

God is not opposed to learning, knowledge, discovery, or understanding. After all, He is the Creator of **ALL** truth. But He does warn against the pride of the human heart, and wisdom that attempts to explain life apart from the One true God. When man's reasoning becomes the final authority, he inevitably reaches the wrong conclusions because he has excluded the very One who gave life and meaning to all things. The philosophical arguments against the knowledge of God are vain!

The word ***philosophy*** comes from Greek words meaning "the love of wisdom." Yet much of human philosophy has become the pursuit of wisdom apart from God. It is man seeking answers through his own reasoning while setting aside the revelation given by the Creator. Such a pursuit can never arrive at the ultimate truth concerning life, purpose, and for that matter... ***eternity***.

Humans continually search for meaning. They look for it in education, science, politics, wealth, pleasure, achievement, and countless systems of thought. Yet true meaning can only be found in the presence of our loving heavenly Father, and His Word.

God has not remained silent. He has spoken. He has revealed Himself in His Word and has made known both the purpose of life and the hope of eternal life through His Son. He says so in **II Peter**, chapter 1.

II Peter 1:3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue [aretē= excellence of character].

What may seem far-fetched and obscure to one man may make perfect sense to another who has devoted himself to a particular philosophy or worldview. Yet in the final analysis, God's Word has the last word concerning man, his thoughts, and the wisdom he endeavors to accumulate.

Perhaps no man who ever lived was more qualified to investigate the value of **human** wisdom than Solomon. God blessed him with extraordinary wisdom, understanding, wealth, influence, and opportunity. If the answers to life's deepest questions could be found through human knowledge and experience alone, surely Solomon would have discovered them. The book of Ecclesiastes was authored by God, and written by Solomon. God worked with him in order to teach the believers the contrasts between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom. **Ecclesiastes 1.**

After examining life from every conceivable angle, Solomon arrived at a startling conclusion.

Ecclesiastes 1:16 I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all *they* that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. 17 And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit. [or NIV states: "this too is a chasing after the wind"] 18 For in much wisdom *is* much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow [grief].

Notice that Solomon did not merely possess wisdom; he actively pursued it. He investigated life, observed mankind, sought understanding, and examined the affairs of the world around him. Yet after all of his searching, he found that human wisdom alone could not satisfy the deepest needs of the human heart. He compared it to "chasing the wind."

Knowledge may answer many questions about life, but it cannot answer the most important questions of life. It cannot tell a man why he exists. It cannot reveal his eternal purpose. It cannot explain the love of God, the hope of salvation, or the promise of everlasting life. These truths can only be known because God has chosen to reveal them.

The further Solomon searched apart from divine revelation, the more he realized the limitations of human understanding. Like a man chasing the wind, he found himself pursuing something that could never be fully grasped.

After recording his observations and conclusions, Solomon summarized the matter with remarkable simplicity.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

(CEV) Everything you were taught can be put into a few words: Respect and obey God! This is what life is all about.

After all his investigations, achievements, discoveries, and experiences, Solomon arrived at the very place where true wisdom begins: a proper reverence and respect for God.

The wisdom of the world seeks answers by beginning with man. It starts with human reasoning and looks upward in hopes of discovering truth. The wisdom of God begins with God Himself. It starts with the truth He has already revealed and then seeks understanding from that foundation. God has already given the things that pertain to life and godliness; therefore, true wisdom is found by seeking His understanding of those things.

This leads us to an important question. If the pursuit of worldly wisdom ultimately leaves man unsatisfied, then what should be the object of our pursuit? To what end should we seek wisdom, knowledge, and understanding? What is the highest knowledge that a person can attain? Ph.D? ThD? Many higher class certifications? NO.

God provides the answer by way of the prophet Jeremiah, chapter 9. God does not discourage the pursuit of wisdom, knowledge, or understanding. Rather, He directs mankind toward the highest and most valuable knowledge available—the knowledge of God Himself. For there is no greater wisdom than knowing the One who created all things, sustains all things, and reveals the truth concerning all things.

Here in the book of Jeremiah 9, God reveals what is truly worthy of a man's pursuit.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man [wise and skilfull] glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty [strong] man glory in his might, let not the rich man [temporal satisfactions and earthly abundance] glory in his riches: 24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth [and acknowledges Me and honors Me as God and knoweth me], that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

Notice that God does not say that wisdom, strength, or riches are evil. Rather, He warns against placing confidence and glory in those things. The world admires intelligence, power, and wealth, yet none of these can provide a man with true purpose, or lasting peace, or eternal life. God points us to something infinitely greater. If a man is to boast, let him boast that he understands and knows God.

The greatest knowledge available to mankind is **not** found in a university classroom, a laboratory, a philosophy textbook, or a library of human achievement. It is found in a relationship with God, our Creator Himself. To know God is to know the source of all truth, all life, all wisdom, and all understanding. The wisdom of man seeks to explain the works of God. The wisdom of God reveals the heart of God. The more closely you examine the works of man, the more you see the imperfections.

However, the more closely you examine the works of God, the more you see His great perfection.

A person may spend a lifetime studying the stars and never know the One who placed them in the heavens. He may study the complexity of biological life and never come to know the Giver of life. He may understand many things about the world while remaining ignorant of the very purpose for which God created him.

True wisdom begins when a person comes to know God and to value what God values. Notice what God says He delights in: lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness. These are not merely attributes of God; they are qualities He desires to see reflected in the lives of His people.

Therefore, the highest use of wisdom is not simply to acquire information, but to know God more fully and to walk according to His Word. As we read in Ecclesiastes 12 a few minutes ago...

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear [reverence, respect and obey] God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

God bless you,



Jack Northart