TITLE: TRUE WISDOM

TEXT: 1st Ki. 14:29-34; Pr. 4:5; 1st Co. 1:18, Romans 8:1-4, 1st Co. 1:20-31; James 1:22-25; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about wisdom. What is true wisdom?

 Solomon was probably the wisest man who has ever lived.

 When God asked Solomon what He could give him when Solomon became king over Israel after the death of his father King David, Solomon didn’t ask God for long life or great wealth or riches or fame and fortune, but he simply asked God to give him a discerning heart to distinguish between right and wrong to help him govern his people.

 God was pleased with Solomon’s request and granted Solomon what he asked for.

 **1Kin 4:29 (NIV) God gave Solomon wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore.**

**30 Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the men of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.**

**31 He was wiser than any other man, ---And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations.**

**34 Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who had heard of his wisdom.**

Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived passes these words of advice on to his own son….

**Prov 4:5 (NIV) Get wisdom, get understanding;**

**do not forget my words or swerve from them.**

**6 Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you;**

**love her, and she will watch over you.**

**7 Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom.**

**Though it cost all you have, get understanding.**

**8 Esteem her, and she will exalt you;**

**embrace her, and she will honor you.**

**9 She will set a garland of grace on your head**

**and present you with a crown of splendor."**

 Solomon recognized the tremendous value of true wisdom.

But it is important that we realize just what true wisdom is.

 Solomon gives us the definition of true wisdom in his response to God when he says: **Lord give me a wise and discerning heart --- to distinguish between right and wrong!**

True wisdom is to have a discerning heart to distinguish between right and wrong…

 There are really two types, two different concepts of wisdom in our world….

 Wisdom from the perspective of this world, the wisdom of men, and the wisdom that Solomon sought after… A wisdom that only comes from God….

 If you asked someone with the worlds view of wisdom today to define what wisdom is I will guarantee you that they will not say that wisdom is to have a discerning heart able to distinguish between right and wrong.

 I think we have two primary examples of wisdom from the world’s perspective in our culture today and that is what we see displayed in Washington and Hollywood.

 Isn’t this where the wise of our world reside?

 Aren’t they the people that we hold up as wise in our society today?

 To a degree, I can understand why some may be tempted to think this way when it comes to our politicians, I mean most of them have come out of law school and hold law degrees.

 But It baffles me why so many think that those who come out of Hollywood are wise in any sense of the word.

 Often their only claim to wisdom is that they once may have portrayed a wise person in a movie!

 For an actor to have played the role of Albert Einstein does not make him an Einstein!

 What many have confused in this country is wisdom and popularity. To many, being wise and being popular are synonymous. We have combined the notion that wisdom and success walk hand in hand.

 If a person is popular or successful or a gifted speaker then they must be wise!

 Have you ever noticed that it seems that it is the wise of this world, the intellectually superior from this worlds point of view, that seem to have the most problem with the simple acceptance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

I have encountered highly intelligent people who claimed to be an atheist.

 I would dare to say that most who make the claim of atheism are highly intelligent people from the world’s point of view!

 By many they may be considered the great thinkers of our day…

 Solomon said: **There is nothing new under the sun!**

The apostle Paul encountered such men in his day.

 People, whose own wisdom was their god was trying to come against the Church in Paul’s day with some of the same arguments that the wise of our world will use today.

 Such as: Only a simple-minded person would believe in God. Or at least in one supreme God!

 Only a weak minded person would, by mere faith, accept a gospel that says you must be born again in order to see and enter the kingdom of God!

 When we were in Seattle several years ago and we saw a bumper sticker that expressed this attitude. It said, “I was born right the first time.” In other words this person saw no need to be born again.

 There were many philosophers, by the standards of the world, wise men in Paul’s’ day that said that the message of the cross, the message of Jesus, the message of a risen Savior was foolishness…..

 Listen to what the apostle Paul has to say about the message of the cross of Christ….

 **1Cor 1:18 (NIV) For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

The message of the cross is foolishness to all those who are perishing, to those who have rejected its simple truth, the simple truth that Jesus is the only means by which a man can be saved!

 To those who are wise in their own eyes the message of the cross is foolishness!

**3472 moria {mo-ree'-ah}**

1. **Foolishness**

 Comes from the root

**3474 moros {mo-ros'}**

**1) foolish**

1. **impious, godless (moron)**

To the wise of this world the message of the cross is void of God!

HOWEVER, **to us who are being saved the message of the cross is the power of God.**

 Within the message of the cross we find the power of God to save our soul! The power of God to raise us victorious over death and the grave! The power of God to deliver us from Hell and deliver us to Heaven!

 Within the message of the cross we find the power of God to free us from the bondage and oppression of sin!

 Past sin in that we can be totally and completely forgiven and future sinning in that, through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life, we are given the ability to literally go and sin no more as we yield to the Spirits guidance in our life!

**Romans 8:1-4(NIV)**  **1Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,**  **2because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.**  **3For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.And so he condemned sin in sinful man,**  **4in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.**

 Scripture here assures us that what the Mosaic law was powerless to do in that it is weakened by our sinful nature, (the law being powerless to give us the ability to keep the law), God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering.

 And so He condemned sin in sinful man in order that the righteousness requirements of the law might be fully met in us who live, not according to our sinful nature, but who life according to the Spirit!

 To the wise of this world this message of deliverance and hope and salvation is foolishness. But to those of us who have and are being saved through this message, it is the power of God!

 Paul goes on

 **1 Co. 1**:**20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

**21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.**

**22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom,**

**23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,**

**24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

 The message of the cross, the message of Jesus may be foolishness to the wise of this world…

 But the foolishness of God is still wiser then man’s greatest wisdom!

 If God were to ever have a bad day and say something foolish, that foolishness would still be a mountain higher than the greatest wisdom of any man!

 There were those within the Church in Paul’s day that felt intimidated by the wise of their world. By those who said that they were foolish for believing in a God whom they could not taste, touch, see, or smell!

 The same is true today! The wise of this world often try to tell us the very same thing! That we are simple minded to blindly accept the message of the cross, the message of salvation, the message of Jesus, by simple faith!

 Often Satan will try to use the wisdom of this world to try to get us to doubt the message of the cross. Doubt the message of the Gospel….

 Many times he will try to make us feel like we are not good enough, not intelligent enough to serve God…

Example: I was in my mid 30’s when God started to call me into ministry. The main obstacle I faced at the time was my past. It would require my going to Bible College and I was never that good a student in high school as my focus back then was not studying but on having a good a time.

 I also had a lot of sin in my life prior to my coming to Christ.

 Plain and simple fact was I did not feel qualified or even worthy to enter the ministry. It was something I really struggled with.

It was then that the Lord led me to these next verses of Scripture….

**1 Co. 1:26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.**

**27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.**

**28 He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,**

**29 so that no one may boast before him.**

**30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.**

**31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."**

Catch that?

**26 Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.**

 Why is it that not many of the wise of this world come to Christ?

 Why is it that not many influential people come to Christ?

 Why is it that not many who are of noble birth, the rich and famous come to Christ?

 Because to the wise of this world their wisdom is their god!

 To the influential of this world their influence, their power is their god!

 To the noble of this world their fame and fortune is their God!

**27** (so) **God chose the foolish** (in the world’s eyes) **to shame the wise** (of this world)**; God chose the weak** (in the world’s eyes) **to shame** (those who the world says are strong.)

**28 He chose the lowly things and the despised things --and the things that are nothing**--(in the eyes of this world) **to nullify those who think that they are something in their own eyes!**

 **29 so that no one may boast before him.**

 Then Scripture tells us what true wisdom is….

**30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.**

 True wisdom**,** the wisdom of God is only found in Jesus Christ, and that wisdom is manifest in our life through righteousness, holiness and redemption, as we, by simple faith, accept the message of the cross, the Gospel message of Jesus Christ!

The Greek word for wisdom is:

**4680 sophos {sof-os'}**

**1) wise, skilled, expert:**

**1c) forming the best plans and using the best means for**

**their execution**

True wisdom is not measured by the amount of knowledge that one has, but by how skillfully one uses the knowledge that they have!

 -- Dwight L. Moody

 *The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on tiptoe.*

**Jame 1:22 (NIV) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.**

**23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror**

**24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**

**25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.**

 True wisdom is not found in merely hearing the Word of God, but true wisdom is found in doing what the Word of God reveals to us!

 You see, if the Word of God is not bringing about change in our life then it is of no value to us!

**23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror**

**24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.**

 Example: Go look into the mirror and see you have barbeque sauce on your face but the instant you turn from the mirror you forget it is there so you don’t wipe it off but go on about the day with sauce on your face!

 The mirror tells you that your face has sauce on it but as soon as you leave the mirror you forget about it.. You go to the mirror but you don’t allow it to do what its purpose is to do…show you your flaws so that you can correct them!

 The same can be true with us as Christians when we go to the Word of God!

We go to the mirror of the Word of God, supposedly so we can see where we are messed up, and the Word reveals our messy condition to us, yet when we leave the Word we forget what the Word has shown us and we just go on in our messed up condition, we go on living our messed up lives!

 What we need to understand is that when we do this we are worse off than the person who had never heard Gods Word in the first place!

 At least they have an excuse for their messed up condition!

 They don’t really know any better! We do know better! God has revealed His truth to us!

 Paul says…

25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

 Part of that blessing is wisdom! Godly wisdom!

 A wisdom that will lead us on a path toward righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Paul in writing to Timothy, his son in the faith says this:

2Tim 3:14 (NIV) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

**15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

**17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**

 This morning, are you being thoroughly equipped for every good work that God has for you to do?

 Are you being made wise for Salvation through faith in Christ?

 Is the wisdom of God being manifest in your life through, not just being a hearer of the Word, but by being a doer of God’s Word?

 Are we allowing Gods Word to mold and fashion us into the new creation that God has called for us to be?

 Are we not merely hearing what God has to say to us but are we doing what He tells us?

 When we walk up to the mirror of God’s Word are we allowing it to effect change in our life?

 That is true wisdom! A wisdom that will result in righteousness, holiness and redemption!

 Are you wise in the Lord, wise in His salvation this morning, allowing His Word to change and transform your life into the man, woman or child of God that He desires and has ordained for you to be?