

## How Many Kinds of Wisdom?

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about concepts such as *wisdom*, *knowledge*, *prudence* and *discretion*. Sometimes it seems hard to know where one of these words should be used, because they are all so similar. There is one verse in the book of Proverbs, however, that actually uses them all at once, and is basically giving the reader an insight into the versatility of wisdom.

*"I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge and discretion.*

Proverbs 8:12

True wisdom comes from God. James compares earthly wisdom with heavenly wisdom in James 3:13-18. Earthly wisdom brings disorder and strife, but heavenly wisdom brings peace. Like love, wisdom is impossible for us to fully understand. Who can "define the divine"? Like God Himself, wisdom is many things at once, but it always looks up to God.

So, Wisdom is said to "dwell with prudence". Prudence is wisdom that looks ahead (Proverbs 14:15) and acts and speaks carefully so as to avoid problems and to preserve that which is good. The Hebrew word is also used to mean *crafty* or *shrewd*, and these terms can be quite negative. It is the word used to describe the serpent in Genesis 3:1.

Our verse says that knowledge and discretion are "found out" by wisdom. Deuteronomy 4:29 says that "if you seek the LORD you shall find HIM". Wisdom naturally seeks to attain knowledge and discretion, and wisdom naturally finds them. We might say that wisdom looks within.

*Knowledge* is wisdom that looks around and experiences life. This is natural and practical knowledge that comes through the senses. A good synonym would be *familiarity*, and so Adam "knew" his wife, Eve. (Genesis 4:1). But we must never forget that "fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). We cannot truly know or enjoy anything about life if we do not fear the One who created life.

*Discretion* is a word used to denote purpose, plan or device. It is often negative, as in Proverbs 12:2 "...the LORD condemns a man of wicked devices" – KJV. The woman of noble character, however, is said to "consider a field" for the purpose of buying it. This is wisdom that looks to do good.

So, wisdom will...

... look up to God with devotion... look ahead with caution... look within with faith... look around with joy and look to the good with hope.

AB



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

January 28, 2018

### WELCOME!

#### Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Bible Study-7:00pm

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**All the churches of Christ greet you.**

ROMANS 16:16

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### **Today's Sermon:** [Do You Remember?](#)

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

[valleycitieschurchofchrist.org](http://valleycitieschurchofchrist.org)

[aicoc.org](http://aicoc.org) (Antioch Initiative)

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**Scripture:** Jeremiah 2:1-3

## ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class: Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am. We will be studying Day 1 of the second chapter.**
- Midweek Bible Study- stay tuned as this is a work in progress!
- **Bill Colwell from World Bible School in TX will be here on April 14<sup>th</sup> to do a workshop presentation for the purpose of getting us involved in using that very effective resource for reaching the lost all over the world as well as locally.**
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Regional Singing @ Horseheads, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm.**
- **Housewarming Celebration- Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>- Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Speakers TBD**

Next Potluck: February 18<sup>th</sup>.



- Our baptistery plans are being evaluated by the code department in Sayre and if all is in order, the baptistery unit will be ordered this week.
- The trustees had a meeting on Friday at Jerry's house. The bylaws were amended as we all decided and plans for the baptistery were finalized.
- There has been a desire by a few of us to spend more time together on a Sunday. We have considered bringing a sandwich lunch and having a half hour or so afterwards singing, praying, discussing the sermon and talking about how to share our faith.

## PRAYERS...

- Please remember **Kiley and Thomas** in prayer. Also pray for their grandmother, **Judy Brotzman**, as she cares for her husband.
- Pray for **Darlene** as she has tests here in Sayre to determine what her problems are and the best way to treat them.
- Pray for **Andrea Lentz** who has a mass on her lung.
- Pray for **Joshua Dunn**, who is suffering from stage 4 lung cancer. Pray experimental treatment in St. Louis continues to help him.
- **Lori Kashorek** from Plattsburgh, NY, who has lung cancer which recently metastasized to the brain, and has gone to Sloane-Kettering in NYC for treatment.
- Pray for **Vicki Joice** as she continues Herceptin treatments for breast cancer (until June). Also pray for relief from lymphedema. She is anticipating bypass surgery to enable the lymphatic fluid better flow.
- Sandy and Arthur's neighbor, **Erin Beiber** has metastatic breast cancer throughout her body. Pray for pain relief and courage and opportunity to speak to her about salvation.
- Emily Barry will be having thyroid surgery March 6 in Sayre.
- Ted has had a spike in blood pressure recently. Pray that he can get it under control with the new medication he is trying.
- Pray that we can all be like minded as we **worship** here in our new building and make plans to use our new facility for purposes that are in line with God's will. Be with us, Lord, as we prepare to be able to **baptize new believers and show hospitality** to brethren and visitors. **Let us keep our eyes on Jesus in everything we do.**

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry :

**barncat7237@gmail.com** or text or call (607) 261-0911.