

How Many Kinds of Wisdom?

Arthur Barry

As one reads through the book of Proverbs words and concepts such as *wisdom, knowledge, prudence* and *discretion* appear frequently. Sometimes it seems hard to know where one of these words should be used, because they are all similar and seem to overlap. There is one verse in the book of Proverbs, however, that 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,
look to the good with hope.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

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Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

October 27, 2019

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Ladies Bible Study- 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: Is There a Word From the LORD?

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

Bulletins are archived on the website.

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Scripture: Hebrews 8:10-12

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** October 30th, 6:30pm. Arthur will continue with our study of Galatians. We have been meeting downstairs for the last few weeks, but we can move upstairs if anyone has a hard time with the stairs. **This week we will be filling goodie bags to give out the next night for Trunk 'r Treat.**
- **Trunk or Treat - Thursday, October 31st, 6-8pm.**
- **Thanksgiving Dinner-Saturday, November 16th** at 5pm here at the building, courtesy of some brethren from Kittanning. Please come and invite friends and family.
- **Next Potluck:** November 17th
- **Men's Brunch- As iron sharpens iron...Saturday, November 2nd, 10am-12 noon @ Horseheads church of Christ. Please see flyer on bulletin board in foyer for details.**
- **Grief Ministry** meeting and showing of Tear Soup- 7pm, Tuesday, November 26th, December 3rd, 10th and 17th.
- **Next Regional Singing:** December 29th @ Endwell
- **Sojourners-** July 27th- August 6th



NEWS

- **Todd Williams** will be having the first of his knee replacements on November 11th. He is currently in the Philippines visiting his girlfriend, Michelle. Michelle was wearing an engagement ring in a picture on Facebook, so congratulations are in order upon Todd's return.
- We will be participating in a **Trunk 'r Treat in the parking lot of the church on Thursday evening from 6-8pm.** Everyone is welcome to set up their decorated car trunk there and give out treats. We will also prepare the church van for one of the "trunks".
- **Virginia Rice has started teaching music lessons in the large classroom across from the boiler room on Thursday afternoons. This classroom is all set up for her classes at this point.**
- We are planning to install a chairlift on one of the stairways leading to downstairs. Active investigations are now underway!

PRAYERS

- **Continue praying for follow up visits and calls to contacts made during our two door-knocking campaigns. We are getting results!**
- Pray for **Todd** as he is on his trip and as he is preparing to have knee surgery.
- Pray for **Jackie Lobevero** as she is suffering from arthritis pain.
- **Emily Barry** has been undergoing tests and biopsies. Please pray for her peace of mind.
- **Andrea Lentz**, who has lung cancer, is staying at Elderwood in Waverly. Her cancer has spread to her bones. Please pray for Andrea to be free from pain and for healing.
- **Please pray for Mark Elsbree, Doug's brother**, who needs a kidney donor soon.
- **Pray for Lori Kashorek**, who has lung cancer. Lori is the minister's wife at the Plattsburgh, NY church.
- **Pray for Erin Beiber**, who has metastatic breast cancer. Erin has agreed to study the Bible with Arthur about how to be saved. Pray for this study.
- **Pray for Don Myers**, minister for the church in Elmore, AL, who is suffering from back pain and the effects of his pain medication.
- **Pray for Peyton Chacona**, who has seizures.
- **Rick Stapleton**, who Arthur met when he knocked on his door, is dealing with many health problems and will be having a doctor visit tomorrow concerning his shoulder. Pray for him.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.