



LIFENEWS



by Ron Story, Community Life Pastor
parksidevisalia.org

Wisdom or We's Dumb?

Are there times when you look at the world today, listen to and watch the news, grieve over the increased prices of groceries, energy, and rent, observe the struggles, hopelessness, and divisiveness throughout our country, and wonder ... "How did we get in such a mess?"

This is one of the reasons why I read a chapter from Proverbs every morning; it's wisdom from God's Word. Today is December 13, so I read from Proverbs 13:

"Whoever despises the Word brings destruction upon himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded. The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life that one may turn away from the snares of death. Good sense wins favor but the way of the treacherous is their ruin. In everything the prudent acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly." (Proverbs 13:13-16)

How did we get into this mess? As a nation, we have pushed aside God's Word and failed to honor His eternal, absolute truth! His Word leads to life, good sense, and prudence ... in a word ... WISDOM!

James 3:13-18 differentiates between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of the Word. Worldly wisdom is unspiritual and demonic (14-15). It not only leaves God out but is actually against God and His truth! Worldly wisdom leads to disorder and every vile practice (16). Sounds like an apt description of the world I see today.

On the other hand, the wisdom of the Word, (God's wisdom), ***"The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."*** (James 3:17-18) The opposite of God's wisdom is jealousy, selfish ambition, disorder, and every vile practice.

The Book of Proverbs was given by God to provide wisdom from the Word, skill in Godly living, and the application of God's truth to specific situations in life.

It begins with the "fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10), a right awareness of a holy, just, and almighty God, a desire to live in harmony with His righteous standards, and to live a life that honors and pleases Him in all we do. Secondly, it involves trusting the Lord with all our hearts and not leaning, depending upon our own understanding, preferences, and selfish ambitions (Proverbs 3:5).

As I see things, we have two choices ... (Romans 12:2). We can be diligent to renew our minds with God's Word to gain Godly wisdom from above, or we can be conformed to the world's wisdom and continue the downward spiral of disorder, selfish ambition, and every vile practice.

In other words, we can pursue **Wisdom or We's Dumb!**

Choose wisely, Grasshopper, and join me in our yearly offer to help you read a chapter from Proverbs daily by picking up a 2024 **Daily Bible Reading Calendar** in the foyer or at the Welcome Center.

Bonus: In addition to reading a chapter in Proverbs each day, you can also read a Psalm, a section from the Old Testament, and a chapter or two from the New Testament. Over the course of the year, you will have read the Book of Proverbs 12 times, the Book of Psalms twice, the New Testament twice, and the Old Testament once.

I guarantee this can take you from "We's dumb" to Wisdom! "But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by consistent practice to distinguish good from evil." (Hebrews 5:14) Sounds like Proverbs to me!