

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD
6. THE WISDOM OF GOD
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-28

Patrick Szalapski
Twin City Fellowship

Psalms 104:24 - O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

- God is all-wise means that God's choices, actions, and goals are always the best
- The Father Knows Best

FATHER KNOWS BEST?



WHEN HUMAN WISDOM FAILS

"The dialogue, the situations, the characters, they were all totally false. The show did everyone a disservice. The girls were always trained to use their feminine wiles, to pretend to be helpless to attract men... Father Knows Best purported to be a reasonable facsimile of life. And the bad thing is, the model is so deceitful. It usually revolved around not wanting to tell the truth, either out of embarrassment, or not wanting to hurt someone.

"If I could say anything to make up for all the years I lent myself to (that), it would be, 'You Know Best.'"

- Billy Gray (actor, Father Knows Best), 1983

GOD'S WISDOM IS DEEP

Romans 11:33 - Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Job 9:2-4 - Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart and mighty in strength- -who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?

GOD'S WISDOM IS EXALTED

Isaiah 55:8-9 - For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Also Isaiah 40:28, Job 12:13, 28:12-28, 36:5, Daniel 2:20, Psalm 147:5, 2 Peter 2:9

AN EXAMPLE OF GOD'S WISDOM

2 Peter 3:2-10 - ...remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation." For they deliberately overlook [God's plan]... The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will...

BELIEVERS BENEFIT FROM GOD'S WISDOM


Romans 8:27-28 - And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

Ephesians 3:7-11 - Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Wisdom of the world = folly to God
 Wisdom of God = folly to the world
 This is meant to be in the scope of
 God's redemptive plan, not in every
 way imaginable

WISDOM OF THE WORLD



"Live a good life. If there are gods and they are just, then they will not care how devout you have been, but will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by. If there are gods, but unjust, then you should not want to worship them. If there are no gods, then you will be gone, but will have lived a noble life that will live on in the memories of your loved ones."

Caesar Marcus Aurelius

THE CROSS IS WISDOM

1 Corinthians 1:18-28 - For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

THE WORLD DISREGARDS WISDOM

1 Corinthians 1:18-28 cont. - For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

GOD'S WISDOM COMPARED

1 Corinthians 1:18-28 cont. - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are.

We can see many ways the gospel was foolish to the ancient world:

- Accepted by the dishonorable poor
- Spread to the unclean Gentiles
- Preached by Paul's weak voice
- The message is about a executed, cursed, and reviled man

THE GOSPEL IS FOOLISH TODAY

- Doesn't provide an obvious set of dos and do nots (outward actions are insufficient)
- Promises persecution, strife, and discord
- Commands that we submit our ideas and concepts to those of the Bible
- Demands we flee from living for self
- Does not promise supernatural experiences

TRUST IN GOD'S WISDOM

Proverbs 3:5-8 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

TRUST IN GOD'S WISDOM

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - So to keep me from becoming conceited...a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

CHRISTIANS MISTRUST GOD BY

- Presumption or grumbling toward God (Job 40:1-5)
- Introducing man-made worship or rules (Colossians 2:23)
- Ignoring inconvenient biblical truths (Matthew 15:3-6)
- Neglecting means of grace (Acts 2)

GODS LAW AND HIS WISDOM

Deuteronomy 4:4-6 - ...See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

GODS LAW AND HIS WISDOM

Proverbs 1:1-7 - The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth. Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

Psalms 111:9-10 - He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Proverbs 9:9-10 - Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- Any more questions?
- Discussions, questions, disputes welcome - Patrick Szalapski
 - E-mail szal0003 (at) umn.edu
 - Find me on Facebook or Twitter (@szalapski)

Bible quotations are from the ESV
