

September 14, 2025

“How wise are we?”

In our reading today, Paul, in his letter to the church at Corinth wrote,

“¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For 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.” Wisdom...wise...being wise...where is the one who is wise...

Many believe that with the advent of AI...artificial intelligence...we will become a wiser people because AI can look at more information, then share it in answer to our questions, so that we can hopefully make an “informed” opinion—decision--about our lives and our relationships. And yet, I don’t know about you but even with AI on MS Word and Excel and with our internet search engines, it doesn’t seem to make me wiser...yet.

Some are already saying, how do we live a life of wisdom in this “info-glut” world? Think about this. Our founding fathers wanted education and learning and developing a collection of books of knowledge was important to this new nation.

They did this through the Library of Congress. The Library of Congress was established by an act of Congress in 1800. In 1815 the Library accepted 6,487 books from the library of Thomas Jefferson. As of 2022, the Library of Congress had a collection of more than 175.5 million items, which included more than 35 million cataloged books and other print materials in 470 languages and nearly 120 million additional items in various formats. It is now the the largest library in the world...and growing faster every day with the proliferation of new books and digital recordings and more of what is being created on the ‘Net.”

But regarding this enormous collection, James Billington who served for 30 years as Librarian of Congress, argued that it's even more difficult for our nation to know what to do with all of this information. Describing the contemporary world as "an info-glut culture," Billington asks a probing question: "But have we become any wiser?"

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Within this collection are 35 million plus catalogued books. Yes, 35 million which you and I can go and read. One of those books is the Bible which is the divinely inspired Word of God.

With all of that knowledge, are we, can we be assured of our salvation? We're not saved by accumulating more and more information; we're saved by the power of Christ through faith. And to top it off, Everything in the Library of Congress is a drop in the bucket compared to God's omniscience.

Knowledge...wisdom...being wise...are all important to each and every one of us. That's why we had to go to school. To gain knowledge that would aid us in being wise in the life, the career, the calling we chose...and that the wisdom gained through discussions, and on the job experience coupled with the experiences we each had in our own lives is so that we can be productive and useful citizens of our world.

Think of this. God gave us the 10 Commandments so that we would know how to live our lives. The first three tell us how to truly relate to God, the Triune God. The remaining seven give us guides and curbs to help us relate to each other. And then Jesus gave us the 11th commandment, love others as you love yourself. All eleven commandments were given us so that we would be wise in living in this world with so many temptations.

And yet, just as we have seen in the news the last few weeks, people are still trying to force their own opinion on others through so many violations of the Ten Commandment resulting in mental anguish, pain and death. You and I know that part of this is because in being wise to the world, as Jesus told us, we have not been wise in our faith...in standing up for the Good News whenever and where ever we could to help others learn about the evils of sin.

A 27-year-old Chinese student studying in Japan was rescued twice from Mount Fuji within a span of four days—after he returned to the mountain to retrieve personal belongings left behind during his first rescue.

According to Japanese authorities, the man was first airlifted from Mount Fuji earlier in the week due to climbing difficulties. After the rescue, he realized he had left behind his mobile phone and other possessions on the mountain. Determined to

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recover them, he returned to Mount Fuji just days later, despite the clear dangers of a second off-season climb.

On his return ascent, he was spotted over 3,000 meters above sea level by another climber, who alerted rescue teams. The man was again brought down the mountain and taken to a hospital, reportedly suffering from symptoms of altitude sickness. Officials later confirmed it was the same individual rescued days earlier.

Mount Fuji is snow-covered for much of the year and officially open to hikers only between early July and early September. The risks of off-season climbing are well known, and local authorities have stressed the dangers repeatedly. The dual rescue has drawn attention not only for its rarity but also for the man's decision to return so soon. Though he was not charged with any crime, local officials emphasized the seriousness of the situation and lamented the loss of resources required for such rescue operations.

Hopefully this young man will do a better job of learning from his mistakes in the future.

It's easy to fall into repeating our mistakes, even when we know better. Ignoring wise counsel can lead us into real danger. But never forget the grace of God, which offers the incredible gift of second chances...forgiveness through the grace, the love that He gave to you and me through His Son.

The key to wisdom for each of us lies in our relationship with God and with each other. If we have learned anything in these sin-filled days, it is that real truth and honesty in our relationship with God and each other is the key to understanding, to learning, to gaining wisdom from each other...so that we can, together, make this a better world. A world filled with peace and love and the joy that we have through our Savior.

And with each other, over time, if we are patient and listen and love, we can have a real long-term relationship with each other...with someone. But it's now easy. Each of us have our own routines, quirks and thoughts. Those can be overcome in every relationship by conversation, not texting...by listening more and talking less...by being honest and true.

Today, Kim and Lee Latham, will be renewing their marriage vows from 20 years ago. And if you asked them, has it been easy? They would tell you the same thing each

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of us in relationships with spouses, friends and family, it is never easy. Each of us are individuals and we want to be seen as an individual. But the truest individual is being one within the body of Christ. Perhaps this analogy will help...each key on an 88-key piano has its own sound. If you took a sheet of music and used only one note, say middle C, for every note needed, there would be no melody, no tune that others could sing. So, when we use those other keys, we make the most wonderful music possible. And you and I are like those 88 keys. By ourselves, we can't make a tune but together, we can still be ourselves but now make something that is good for all the other 88 keys...for all the other people we interact with every day.

And how does this happen? By being wise to the world...by being wise in our faith...by being wise in how we relate to God and to each other.

Remember this that I shared once before. We are told this is the Knowledge Economy. The Information Age. But where is wisdom to be found?

Great question – where is wisdom to be found?

Google it.

I did.

You could do it too.

Guess what came up as the top answer?

In fact, as I type into Google, “Where is wisdom to be found?” I scroll down and just keep rolling - and every answer, the first 25 at least – come from the Bible.

From the Book of Job, chapter 28:12, that says, “But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?”

Google can't tell you the answer, but it can tell you where to find it, in God's Word. Amen.