

9/28/17

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What is the difference between being smart and being wise? There is a difference. Someone who is smart knows a lot of things, but they can also be a 4.0 idiot. I once read that a man who had an extremely high I.Q. could not understand how to tie his shoes. Something that even a 3-year-old child can understand and do with ease.

A person who is wise takes the knowledge that they have and use it properly. Some might call this common sense. Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge correctly. Holy Scripture tells us that Timothy was wise even as an infant because of the faith that the Holy Spirit placed in his heart. So often little children, with simple faith and trust in Jesus, are wiser than adults. Spiritual wisdom is knowing Jesus and what He did for us on the cross and with His empty tomb.

Be wise unto salvation!

We live in the information age (and misinformation). If you don't have knowledge on a topic, what you want to know is usually just seconds away. A quick internet search and you suddenly know the 24th President, the name of that weird looking insect, and 97 recipes for chocolate chip cookies.

Knowledge is available to us. The problem is we often don't ask for it. And, when we have it, we don't apply it. This problem impacts more than our retirement planning, fantasy football picks, and menu choices. We are not wise in the way we think and live. Too often, wisdom is missing in the way we treat others and honor our God. We know what is right, but we unwisely choose ourselves over others. We lash out in anger. We love things of this world more than God. This kind of "un-wisdom," God calls sin.

In wisdom and mercy, God the Father sent Jesus. God's wise plan included Jesus living perfectly in our place. In God's wisdom, Jesus suffered and died for all our sins. In perfect wisdom, Jesus rose to life on the third day in victory over sin and death. God's wisdom resulted in forgiveness for all.

Solomon had recently succeeded his father, David, as the king of Israel. As a young man and inexperienced leader, what could God give him that would enable him to serve his people and his God best? Wisdom. And so, Solomon asked for a discerning heart. God blessed him with a wise and discerning heart. *[King Solomon prayed]: “So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.” 1 Kings 3:9*

We don't need to be a king or stuck with a seemingly impossible task to realize one of the many things we really need. We need wisdom... in our work, in our relationships, in our witness to others, and in our lives of thanks to God.

Pray. Ask God for wisdom—wisdom to serve and love him in all that you do. And thank God. Thank him that his wisdom and love led him to purchase and give you forgiveness through Jesus.

Prayer: LORD, thank you for your love and wisdom, your forgiveness and peace through Jesus. Give me wisdom so that I faithfully serve others and honor you in all I do. Amen.

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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