

Psalm 119

week 8, v. 98-100

The beginning of this section, verse 97, is an emphatic statement about the great love the writer has for God's law. Then he gives us a glimpse of the constant focus he keeps on God's laws. Now, in the following verses, we read a benefit of keeping a mindset on God's law.

Ps 119:98 Thy commandments make me wiser than my enemies, For they are ever mine.

When you think of wisdom, what comes to mind? How would you define it?

<chakam> to be wise in mind, word or act: exceeding, teach wisdom, deal wisely, make wiser

wisdom: accumulated knowledge, scholarly knowledge, or enlightenment; the trait of utilizing knowledge and experience with common sense and insight; ability to apply knowledge, experience, understanding or common sense and insight; the quality of being prudent and sensible

To be wise means using discernment; being marked by the exercise of good judgment or common sense in practical matters; the evidence of possessing inside information.

What is the opposite of being wise? Foolishness.

Job 32:9 "The abundant [in years] may not be wise, nor may elders understand justice. (answers the question, does age make someone wise)

Ps 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Pr 8:33 "Heed instruction and be wise, and do not neglect [it.] (We learn from discipline.)

Pr 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will suffer harm. (Who do you hang out with, where does your information come from?)

Pr 30:24 Four things are small on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise:

Pr 30:25. The ants. They are industrious and plan ahead.

Pr 30:26. The badgers (or conies-KJV; a species of rock rabbit; a rodent-like mammal that burrows). They safeguard against their enemies by building a strong refuge.

Pr 30:27. The locusts. They work together in large numbers.

Pr 30:28. The lizard (or spider-KJV). Even though small and insignificant you can find it in king's palaces

This picture of wisdom reminds us that even the small and weak can be very wise. Obviously, the creatures above cannot attribute their actions to anything but God's providence – it's the way they were made. Size or strength does not denote wisdom.

God's word supplies us with wisdom, actually provides us with the tools to be exceedingly wise, wiser than wise! And ... it is continual and has no limits; forever ours, always available. The wisdom we get from God's commands can be accessed at all times. **The question is do we keep it in our hearts and minds in order to use it?**

Ps 119:104 From Thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

De 4:6 "So keep and do [them], for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

Pr 2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth [come] knowledge and understanding.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We are to meditate on God's word; we are to observe and practice God's word if we are to be wise.

2Ti 3:14-17 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned [them]; ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Ps 119:99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for Thy testimonies are my meditation.

What is the difference between wisdom from the world and wisdom from God?

2Ti 3:14-15 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned [them]; ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Wisdom from the world comes from men who are imperfect. Wisdom from God's word is without error. We can receive the best instruction from the best teachers according to the best information that is available yet that knowledge is only as good as the source.

Why does the Psalmist have more wisdom and understanding than all his teachers? Because he meditates on God's word. It's not that his teachers weren't knowledgeable but The Teacher is perfect. God's testimonies are constant in David's heart and thinking; he is diligent to study and apply God's commands. He is devoted to them.

What has captured your devotion?

I love books and I love learning about different things. We have so many good resources available to us with useful information. But the best resources for learning are usually from the inventor of the product you want to know about. Even then, the way of doing something changes as new products and techniques are developed. Our understanding of the universe, space, different species, climate, physiology, etc. changes as new things are discovered. So, in the world, wisdom, changes.

Think! What things do you hear are different about caring for newborns now compared to 30 years ago? Have babies changed or has our knowledge changed? What was wise then is considered wrong now.

What is unique about God's word and His wisdom compared to the words of intelligent men and their wisdom? The wisdom of God is far more valuable than the wisdom of the world. God's wisdom doesn't change because He knows everything – God is perfect in all His ways! What better teacher can you think of?

How can we apply this information practically to our own lives?

Ask ourselves who we are following when we make decisions.

Is the information I base my understanding on from myself or others or God's word?

Do I believe in something because someone else has told me to or because I have studied it in God's word for myself?

The *Treasury of David* says: God's testimonies are "the best mode of acquiring understanding. We may hear the wisest teachers and remain fools, but if we meditate upon the sacred word we must become wise. There is more wisdom in the testimonies of the Lord than in all the teachings of men if they were all gathered into one vast library. The one book outweighs all the rest".

Can we boast about the wisdom God reveals to us? Absolutely not! Any understanding given to us should point directly to His excellence. (Reworded and taken from TOD)

Psalm 119:100 reiterates the same thought and adds the importance of practicing God's precepts.

Ps 119:100 I understand more than the aged, because I have observed Thy precepts.

Listen to what Job says about wisdom. Neither age nor position gives wisdom, it is God who gives wisdom.

Job 32:7-9 "I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom.
8 "But it is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding.
9 "The abundant [in years] may not be wise, nor may elders understand justice.

Our Psalmist understands *because* he observes God's commands.

The Bible is the key of all knowledge, the history of the world, past, present, and to come. Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary

Ps 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do [His commandments]; His praise endures forever.

What happens when you practice something?

Mt 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.

What is your response to Psalm 119:100?

Application Questions

What's the opposite of being wise? What would be the advantage of being wiser than your enemies?

How available are God's commands to His children? What does Ps 119:98 say about this?

Being wise means you exercise understanding and good judgment. Having wisdom from God's commands means you possess inside information, an understanding beyond what is available to those who don't know God. How does this wisdom affect your actions?

Does age or education necessarily make someone wise?

Job 32:9

Ps 19:7

Read Proverbs 13:20. How important are the people you surround yourself with? What does it mean to be influenced by those around you? What is the reminder here?

What's the general message to us from Proverbs 30:24-28?

Who gives wisdom? Proverbs 2:6

How would you put Colossians 3:16 to action in your life?