

Core 52: Chapter 14, “Wisdom”

- Let’s begin with some questions:

1. What are some of the primary sources people go to for wisdom in our culture today?
2. Can you think of an example of something considered “wisdom” today that is actually foolish because it is counter to the fear of the Lord?
3. Who is the wisest person that you know? What are they like?

I What?

- Knowledge is the _____ of the facts.
- Understanding is the _____ of the facts.
- Wisdom is the _____ of knowledge and understanding.

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.

James 3: 13, 17 13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

- Biblical wisdom is demonstrated in _____, _____, and _____.
Wisdom is _____ not static.
- Biblical wisdom is not sitting around spouting pithy statements (a la Yoda).
Wisdom is alive, powerful, and impactful in our lives.
- To the Proverbial writer, to the Jew, knowledge, understanding, and wisdom were always about _____.

II So What?

Proverbs 7:1— “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

- The fear of the Lord is where Solomon says that we should begin.
- So, what is the fear of the Lord? It probably is multi-dimensional, but at the very least it is _____, _____, and _____ for God.

III Now What?

What do we do about this wisdom? How do we respond to what we have discussed and learned tonight? Let’s listen to another wise man:

Proverbs 30: 7-9; 24-28. (Agur—a wise man, included by Solomon in Proverbs).

7 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, “Who is the LORD?” or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

24 Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise: 25 the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; 26 the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; 27 the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; 28 the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings’ palaces.