

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Our Constant Focus

(Jerry Fite)

The practical Proverbs say, “*Wisdom is before the face of him that hath understanding; But they eyes of the fool are in the ends of the earth*” (Proverbs 17:24). The constant focus upon wisdom is the commendable characteristic of those possessing understanding. The aimless wandering of the eye throughout the ends of the earth characterizes the foolish. The understanding and foolish are contrasted by the discipline or lack thereof of mental and spiritual focus.

The reason one is foolish is not because wisdom is not available. Wisdom makes herself assessable to all. “*Doth not wisdom cry, and understanding put forth her voice? On the top of high places by the way, where the paths meet, she standeth. Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors, she crieth aloud: unto you, O men I call; and my voice is to the sons of men*” (Proverbs 8:1-4).

The reason one is foolish is not because wisdom is unknowable. The purpose for God’s revealed word is so men can “*know wisdom and instruction*” (Proverbs 1:2). God’s revealed

testimony is to “*make wise the simple*” (Psalms 19:7). God’s wisdom today for salvation is found in Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 1:30), and all can know Him from the least to the greatest (Heb. 8:11).

The reason one understands in our text is not because he has found wisdom, but that he continues to focus upon it. It is constantly before his face giving him wise direction. He will seek second or third opinions before making an important decision (Proverbs 11:14). He will keep his peace when it might be tempting to verbally run down a neighbor (Proverbs 11:12). He will busy himself in productive activities instead of pursuing vain things (Proverbs 12:11).

God’s wisdom is not just theory for mere mental exercise, but practical instruction to apply in all facets of life. Trusting in God instead of leaning on one’s own understanding is the mindset of the truly wise (Proverbs 3:5-6). Departing from evil is the action of those with true understanding (Job 28:28).

Modern technology provides instant information on about any topic you can think of.

Google this, and Wikipedia that can produce information, but how accurate are the written opinions and expressed definitions? You can “tweet” on Twitter, and spend your time silently “lurking” on Facebook. After all, your friends believe you are interested in their daily activities, and think all would profit from their posted views. So, why not lurk?

Being able to communicate and keep up with what is important to our loved ones is not wrong. But the technical advance for obtaining information is a modern test for distinguishing the foolish from those who have understanding. Going to the ends of the earth to know some new thing is a reality in our time. Do we spend more of our time searching the latest opinion instead of searching the Scriptures daily to make sure things are true (Acts 17:11)? Do we spend our time reflecting on “blogs”, and have no time left to meditate on God’s Word (Psalms 1:2).

Many a person today believes their thoughts need expression. Those with understanding see wisdom before their face: *A fool hath no delight in understanding, but only that his heart may reveal itself* (Proverbs 18:2).