

Perspectives

Wisdom

Over the course of my life I have made some wise decisions, such as where to go to college and marrying my wife. As equally true, I have made some unwise decisions, such as buying a pair of parachute pants in the early 1980s (look it up). Take a moment and think about wise people you have encountered. What made these people wise in your opinion? Now, think about unwise people you have encountered. What makes them unwise in your opinion?

Throughout our lives we need, seek, and rely on wisdom. For example, young adults might need wisdom in career choice, new mom and dads might seek wisdom on how to parent, middle-aged people might rely on the wisdom of a financial consultant for sound retirement planning, and older adults may seek the wisdom of family and friends regarding issues that arise in the final years of life.

Keep in mind, seeking good wisdom and receiving good wisdom are two different things, depending on where and from whom you are seeking the wisdom. That is, we may seek the advice and guidance of others, but that does not mean the wisdom they share is sound. Even when seeking the wisdom of someone we trust and respect, we must always keep in mind that human wisdom is just that, human. This doesn't mean we shouldn't seek out the guidance from others (Proverbs 12:15). However, we often look to others first and foremost, rather than looking to God for true wisdom.

Granted, God's Word doesn't tell you specifically to marry a certain person, or accept one job offer over another, or make a specific financial decision. Yet, you can "trust in the LORD with all your heart," not depending "on your own understanding," but seeking "his will in all you do," trusting "he will show you which path to take" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NLT). Through His Word, prayer, divine providence, and godly counsel from mature believers, God can and does give us wisdom and guidance.

During this quarter, we will be examining the wisdom in Proverbs, what the Bible says about end things, and explore what Scripture teaches about politics, neighbors, family, and sharing our faith. As you read and study each week, seek God's wisdom, for "the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding" (Proverbs 2:6).

May God bless you as you study His Word this quarter!

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