

WISDOM OF THE WISE

We are currently studying James 3:13-18 where James introduced two spheres of wisdom currently active in the world.

- He called one the sphere of wisdom.
 - (Jms.3:15) “earthly, natural, demonic.” It is satan’s system of cosmos diabolicus wisdom or worldly thinking.
- He called the other the sphere of wisdom.
 - (Jms.3:17) “wisdom from above.” It is God’s system of Divine Wisdom (biblical)
 - (Jn 21:25) And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

Paul addressed the same doctrine in (1 Cor.1-3). In our lesson text, Paul called:

- God’s system the “wisdom of God” (1 Cor.1:21, 24)
- Satan’s system, he called the “wisdom of the world”. (1 Cor.1:20, 21)

These two spheres of wisdom are very clear today in our country, in our politics, education, and theology. The assault on the five Divine Institutions is just one example of the war between these two spheres of wisdom for the minds and hearts of Americans. For example, the Divine Institution of Employment is being fought between socialism (gov’t welfare and taxes) and capitalism (free enterprise inspiration and perspiration of production workers).

The internet like the newspaper, radio, and TV has changed the speed and cost to reach an audience for the exchange of ideas between these two spheres of wisdom.

**This lesson will study four aspects of the danger of the attack by
Wisdom of Wise of the world against the Wisdom of the Word of God.**

1. The Christian Church has always been the voice of the Wisdom of God’s word to the world.

Without this voice of truth regarding the Wisdom of God, there would only be one voice and that voice would be controlled by satan (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 1 John 5:19).

Paul warns that the wisdom of the Wise of the world considers **spiritual truth as foolish**. He used the Greek word **moria** (English for moron/ mentally impaired) for foolish. This is satan’s world’s system view of the Word of God and everything taught regarding divine truth.

Moria dominates our passage (1 Cor.1:18, 20, 21, 23, and 25).

(1 Cor.1:18) “For the **Word of the Cross** is foolishness to those who are perishing, **but to us** who are being saved it is the power of God.” [Ambassadors for Christ] (2 Cor.5:17-21)

2. Human IQ (intelligence) and (worldly wisdom) are never the basis of perception of spiritual truth, no matter how wise the individual appears. (1 Cor.3:1-3, 18-23)

(1 Cor.1:19-20) “For it is written, ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside. Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**” (Isa.29:14)

Did you note the four rhetorical questions? First three questions to wise men who assume falsely that worldly wisdom is necessary to find spiritual truth. This was the truth for first century AD Jews and Greeks (1 Cor.1:22-24).

- Nicodemus (John 3:10-12) and Saul of Tarsus could be examples of the Jews (John 3 and Acts 22:3-7).
- The City of Athens could be an example of the Greeks (Acts 17:22-23, 31-32).

Pay special attention to the last question and the answer (1 Cor.1:20). In worldly wisdom death normally frustrates and disrupts human plans, but not so with the Plan of God (1 Cor.1:23).

3. God has provided every church age believer with a grace system for learning the wisdom of God regardless of his or her Human IQ or educational background.

On our website, under [50 Things Free](#), eight works of the Holy Spirit given to every church age believer at the moment of grace salvation is listed:

- Adoption (Rom.8:14-17)
- Baptism (Gal.3:27; 1 Cor.12:13)
- **Indwelling** (1 Cor.6:19-20)
- Regeneration (John 3:1-8)
- Sanctification (2 Thess.2:13-14)
- Seals and Earnest (Eph.1:13-14)
- Spiritual gift (1 Cor.12:11)
- Spiritual life (Rom.8:9-11)

The indwelling teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Pet.3:18; John 14:6, 16, 26; 15:18-19, 26-27; 16:5-16, 33; 1 John 2:26-27).

4. Paul showed that both Jews (biblical religion) and Greeks (pagan religion) considered the message of the Grace Gospel of Jesus Christ to be foolishness (1 Cor.1:18-25).

(1Cor.1:22-23) “For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach (kerusso/ p.a.ind) Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness.”

- Wisdom of the world is **meritorious**
 - Good works and accumulation of wisdom of world.
- Wisdom of God is **non-meritorious**
 - Grace by faith in the gospel (The word of God) (1 Cor. 15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Wisdom of the world concludes that the grace gospel is a message of foolishness and weakness of God (1 Cor.1:18-25). Finite and imperfect men call the infinite and perfect God foolish.

(Rom.8:28) “But to those who (~~are~~) the called (tois kletos) both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” (1 Cor.1:24) [Note that there is no verb]