

### **Divine Wisdom**

As Christian believers in the Lord God and in His precious holy Word, do we value and give due attention and priority to God's wisdom, or do we take it for granted?

Our God, who is all-knowing, all-powerful, everywhere present and eternal, is also all-wise. Jesus Christ, His Son, is wisdom personified. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes that Jesus "...became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption" (1:30). Our all-wise God is the source of wisdom and draws us toward life in Him through Christ.

As the author of wisdom, God is willing to share it with believers. Proverbs states, "The Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up wisdom for the upright" (2:6-7). This is both a declaration and a promise. As believers, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him [or her] ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given" (James 1:5). Help from God is not only available, but also necessary, for wise living.

What priority do the Scriptures give to the divine wisdom of God? Just how valuable is God's wisdom, anyway? Proverbs 4:7 provides the answer, admonishing in the New King James translation, "Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom." The book of Proverbs leaves no doubt about wisdom's value, especially in comparison to the material wealth of this world (8:11). We read that wisdom's "proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold" (3:14 NKJV); similarly, wisdom's "fruit is better than

gold, even fine gold, and ... [its] yield than choice silver" (8:19). Knowing this is true, "How much better to get wisdom than gold!" (16:16).

But how can we today, as Christian believers, apply these spiritual and moral truths? From James 1:5, we know that if we ask God for wisdom, He will give it to us. The key to receiving wisdom from God is to approach Him in an attitude of fear and reverence, and to hold Him in the holy awe that He deserves. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Before we can exercise wisdom, we need to receive it. To receive it, we need to approach God with holy awe, reverence and fear.

Consider Solomon's life and experience:

*God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the wisdom of all the people of the east ... (1 Kings 4:29-30)*

Solomon, who was given so much wisdom from God, unfortunately did not always apply it wisely to his life. "He had 700 wives... and 300 concubines. And his wives... turned away his heart after other gods" (1 Kings 11:3-4). How tragic! Let's not follow Solomon's example in turning away from the God of all wisdom and wasting the wealth of the King. Instead, let us model and pattern our lives after Jesus Christ, the perfect personification of wisdom and of a righteous and sanctified life!

----Laurie Van Kleek

Laurie (Laurence) Van Kleek serves as Librarian-Administrator at Summit Pacific College in Abbotsford, British Columbia.