

Attributes of God

God: The Source of All Wisdom

- I. Introduction.
 - A. When the Apostle Paul closes what is the magnum opus of Christian doctrine in the Bible, he breaks into song! It's only right that he do so. How should you tie off the greatest story ever told? After walking through the grand reasons behind God's rescuing love for rebel sinners, only a doxology will do.
 - B. So with a full heart and a mind on fire, Paul wrote Rom. 16:25-27: "...to Him who has power to strengthen you according to my gospel & the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the sacred secret kept silent for long ages, but now revealed & made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God, to advance the obedience of faith among all nations - to the only wise God, through Christ - be glory forever!"
 - C. Notice Paul emphasizes one attribute of God - His wisdom. V. 27: "to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever!" We must "open a window" in our mind to the infinite wisdom of God. I want you to see the wisdom of God more clearly so you can love Him and trust Him more than ever before.
- II. God: The Source of All Wisdom
 - A. Wisdom Defined: **God is infinitely wise**. I want us to see His wisdom for what it is: a perspective-shaping, comfort-giving, anxiety-killing, prayer-inducing implication that will revolutionize your life if you let it lead you. We will spend the fall talking more about this as we study the book of Ecclesiastes.
 1. Definition of wisdom from a biblical perspective, = God knows the **best** outcome in any situation, as well as the best way to achieve that outcome.
 - a) God's wisdom sees the big picture, plus each part of that picture in perfect relationship to rest.
 - b) Wisdom is different from knowledge. You can have knowledge **without** wisdom. There's a lot of **brilliant fools!**
 - c) You cannot have wisdom **without** knowledge, because in order to discern the best way to achieve a goal, you have to be able to see and put together various factors from various sources of knowledge and experience.
 2. Think about this attribute in relation to God. He is the source of all wisdom.
 - a) Hear the psalmist say of God, "*His understanding is infinite*" (Ps. 147:5)`.
 - b) Listen to Jeremiah pray to the "*great and mighty God whose name is the Lord of Hosts, the One great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are on all the ways of the sons of men in order to give to each person according to his ways and the result of his deeds.*" (Jeremiah 32:19).
 - c) Daniel describes God's wisdom as, "*He changes the times & seasons & removes & establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise & knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals the deep & hidden things; He knows what's in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.*" (Dan. 2:21-22)
 - d) Nothing is **ever** a mystery to God. Also, He is never puzzled, confused or uncertain.
 3. Paul writes about the wisdom of God in Rom. 11. His information quickly turns to praise: "*Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways! ...who has known the mind of the Lord? ...who has been His counselor? ...who has given to Him, and needs to be repaid? From Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*" (Rom. 11:33-36)
 - a) What Paul is saying: God's wisdom is **very** deep! - so deep that His judgments cannot be "fathomed" by human minds.
 - b) We can't follow what He's doing (present) or done (past) without getting hopelessly lost. It is **so** deep no one has or could give Him advice - ever!
 - c) In fact, the wisdom of God is so extensive He does not and cannot increase it.
 - d) The only way He could (theoretically) increase in wisdom is for something to come into God's mind that has not already come out of God's mind. Romans 11:36 insists this cannot be done: "...for from Him and through Him and to Him are all things."
 4. So God's actions are always perfectly wise.
 - a) Do you believe that? Do we live our lives in line with this truth?
 - b) There are no upgrades to His wisdom that are needed or even available. Think about this: God is constantly synthesizing billions and billions of strands of data, drawn from all possible fields of knowledge and realms of experience, so that He holds every relevant factor in every situation with total and perfect knowledge. He constantly weighs the facts, implications, costs, consequences, and how it fits into His purposes with flawless skill, so His way is always the best possible way. And God does this all the time, without the least strain and without losing any bit of the data.
 - c) Does anybody on earth understand the eternal, all-encompassing wisdom of God? No, because He is totally out of our league.
 - d) Do we trust Him more because of it? Well, let's see as we consider the next step in our consideration of the wisdom of God.
 - B. Wisdom's life-altering implication.
 1. Charles Ryrie, a theologian, said "*The wisdom of God tells us that God will bring about the best possible results, by the best possible means, for the most possible people, for the longest possible time.*" This truth must follow if God is the wisest of all!
 - a) What this means to us = whatever your life is like right now, God is **wisely** and sovereignly ordering your circumstances to do something in you, through you, in your marriage, in your family, in your work, in your witness, and in your worship that could not be accomplished any other way.
 - b) If there's a better way to accomplish this, you would be experiencing it right now. This tells us covid-19 is no accident. God in His wisdom saw it coming. God in His wisdom knows the way forward. The only question: if we believe it & are willing to trust His wisdom. This is God's **only** plan!
 2. Objections that are raised against God's wisdom in our world.
 - a) It's here where there might be push back. "*I would love to believe that, but it doesn't add up to what I see. You call what's happening now the **best** possible circumstances for the nation and our world? And it's going to produce the **best** possible outcome! What in the world is God going for?*"
 - b) In our wisdom, events today defy **any** solution by **our** wisdom or **God's** wisdom. Two things to consider that might help:
 - (1) We experience God's wisdom in a fallen world & see it from a fallen perspective, so **none** of what's happening makes sense in **our** wisdom!
 - (a) We live in the worst of all possible worlds, under the false wisdom of a world under the shadow of the fall of humanity into sin.

- i) Creation still groans (whether or not we see or hear it) from the shock of sin entering this world. Death followed close behind.
 - ii) In our **present** world, God's wisdom doesn't shield His children from the effects of sin or punish the wicked for their sin. In His wisdom, "He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45).
 - (b) You have His **Word** in places like Galatians 6:7 where it says, "Do not be deceived" (Don't be fooled by the delay in the full execution of God's perfect justice so that you think that He lets the wicked off the hook): "God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap." We can and should believe this. God will set all things right on the day of His final judgment. That's why they call it **final**!
 - (2) It should help us to remember the **wisdom** of God in securing believers' salvation.
 - (a) Everything about God's plan of salvation seemed doomed to fail - in human wisdom. A teenage girl in a stable in a little-known town? A carpenter's son? And have you read about the disciples? Not exactly the types we would choose to "liberate" humanity.
 - (b) That was not the most "foolish" move from mankind's perspective. I Cor. 1:21-24 reveals this truth: "For since, in God's wisdom, the world did not know God through their wisdom, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of the message preached. For the Jews ask for signs and the Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the **power** and **wisdom** of God."
 - i) God's most perfect wisdom, the way of salvation in Christ, looks ridiculous to us. No one's plan would involve a brutal murder!
 - ii) In this most foolish (unwise) looking moment, His wisdom triumphs. In God's "greatest weakness" (what we see, not what is), His power is unleashed. V. 25: "... God's foolishness is wiser than human **wisdom**, His weakness is stronger than human **strength**."
 - iii) In God's wisdom, this was the perfect way to achieve the greatest goal. What goal?
 - (1) See v 31: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord." This is what His wisdom accomplished - for us to truly see it is the best.
 - (2) God in His wisdom chose us, purchased us, called us, and has given to us everything involving our salvation in such a way as to strip us of any and all self-congratulation and replace it with glorying only in the Lord. All we can do is boast in the Lord!
 - (c) Sadly we don't know enough (aren't **wise** enough) to explain why pandemics, pain, suffering, injustice, or brutality happen in this sin-ravaged world. That does not keep unbelievers (and some believers) from trying!
 - i) Like Job, we come to God with questions neither we nor our fellow humans can answer. In the end, God points out (as He did to Job) that in the grand scope of things, we know nothing and our wisdom amounts to nothing.
 - ii) Suggesting a "better plan" to God is like proposing $1 + 1 = 3$. When it comes to divine wisdom, we haven't been there, or done that, and we will **never** have been there or done that.
3. How do believers get to where we will trust His wisdom in the lives of ourselves, our families, our church, and our world? Three suggestions:
 - a) Wise living starts when we **recognize** our need to **Fear the Lord**.
 - (1) Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."
 - (2) What does that mean? Fearing the Lord is basically this: you recognize He is Creator, our Master, the Lord of all; He's holy and awesome and only He is wise enough to call the shots on what happens next.
 - (3) Are you willing to let Him lead? Are you willing to submit yourself to His wisdom for your life?
 - b) Wise living grows when we **receive** God's Word.
 - (1) God's wisdom (Fear of the Lord) for us must start with salvation. It is the foundation on which the rest of our spiritual lives are built.
 - (2) Psalm 19:7: "The Lord's instruction is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise."
 - (3) Nothing = the Bible for revealing God's thoughts. The deeper your roots sink into God's wisdom in His Word, the more it will mark your life.
 - c) Wise living requires we request it.
 - (1) James 1:5-6: "Now if any of you lacks **wisdom**, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind."
 - (2) In other words, don't come to God for a **second** opinion! He should be your first and only stop.
 - (3) Consider what Solomon gained when he asked for God's wisdom, and what he lost when he did not apply it to all areas of his life.
 - (4) What will you do? Will you approach God & say, "Lord, I need your wisdom. What You reveal, I will follow because I know it is the very best."

III. Conclusion

- A. A.W. Tozer in **The Knowledge of the Holy**, wrote this about God's wisdom: "To believe actively that our Heavenly Father constantly spreads around us providential circumstances that work for our present good and our everlasting well-being brings to the soul a veritable benediction. Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never gives rest to the heart."
- B. He goes on to say, "There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God... God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to Him."
- C. The question we need to answer is, "Whose wisdom will I follow in the days to come?"