

Bible Study Notes

Power to Change Series: Would You Like to Be Smarter?

6/16/20

Passages: (all NRSV)

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-20
- Romans 12:1-2
- 1 Kings 3:5-15; 16-27
- Proverbs 1:1-23; 2:1-22

Hi Folks,

Our summertime pace is a little different. This week's theme is about the question: "Would You Like to be Smarter"?

What I found interesting about this theme is the very limited number of passages in the New Testament or even the Gospels about this topic!

In the Old Testament we have the outstanding example of Solomon, the wisest man that every lived. But what we see in the New Testament is more about the life and logic of Jesus Christ.

Paul tells us in the 1 Corinthians passage that the wisdom of the world is foolishness to God, and God's wisdom is foolishness to the world.

As you read through these selections consider these points:

- Our body is a temple of the Lord! God wants us to make the most of all of our talents and abilities! Being a productive people is one way to glorify God.
- We do need to be wise in the ways of the world because those are the people that we live and interact with.
- We need to stay focused on the truth through Jesus and God's will for our lives. This is the wisdom that doesn't make sense to the world. Loving God, putting others before ourselves, and going out of our way to share God's love are not things that make sense to the world.

Wisdom of the world

If you would like to read an interesting article on being wise by worldly standards you may find this article interesting:

<https://www.vistacollege.edu/blog/resources/top-10-easy-daily-habits-to-become-more-intelligent/>

Our bodies – temples to the Lord

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-20
- Romans 12:1-2

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These two passages confirm that our bodies are temples to God. Other ways to say this: we are all part of the body of Christ, we are the holy and adopted children of God.

Wisdom by the world's standards may be needed in this age, we also need to be wise in the ways of Jesus. The text says foolish in the wisdom of the world, because Jesus' teachings made no sense to worldly standards.

Romans also points out that the wisdom of our minds is transformed by God so that we can understand the wisdom of God.

Wisdom-Solomon

- 1 Kings 3:5-15
- 1 Kings 3:16-27

The first passage tells the story of Solomon asking God for wisdom – not for himself, but that he might be the kind of ruler that God wanted him to be.

The second is an example of Solomon's wisdom.

These are interesting stories. 1&2 Kings is interesting reading!

Wisdom-Proverbs

- Proverbs 1:1-23
- Proverbs 2:1-22

The first passage tells the story of Solomon asking God for wisdom – not for himself, but that he might be the kind of ruler that God wanted him to be.

The second is an example of Solomon's wisdom. God blessed us with exceptional wisdom when we ask for it and use it for His glory. These are interesting stories.

Summary

Reflection on these readings and also how wisdom (or “smarts”) plays out in your life. Think about the difference between what the world teaches and how Jesus lived his life.

More on Sunday – Enjoy!

Pastor Jerry