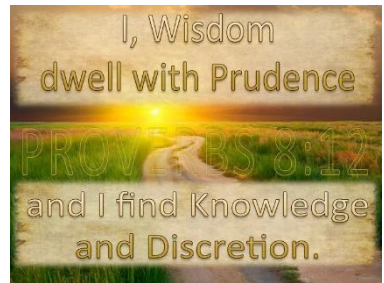


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WALKING PRUDENTLY IN A FOOLISH WORLD

Wisdom is highly desirable by many today. The ancients went in search of it in different places. It is not merely a matter of information or knowledge, but of skillful and practical application of the truth to the ordinary facets of life. James tells us, If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all (Jas 1:5). **Admitting that we lack wisdom is a difficult but necessary first step on the road to prudent living.**



Pursuit of Spiritual Wisdom

If God (or a messenger from God) approached you and offered to grant you one wish, what would it be? Instead of asking for long life or wealth or power or the death of his foes, Solomon pleased the Lord by requesting a discerning heart of wisdom and he got it and is arguably one of the wisest kings that ever lived (1 King 3:10-12). Some thought they can get it from reading more books and/or getting more degrees from universities (ie. it is not necessarily wrong) but the Bible says the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10). The reverence and the awe of Almighty Jehovah will provide the necessary discretion and prudence for this life to keep us from sin and evil and that is true wisdom in action. **We need wisdom to discern God's purposes and in dealing with the many challenges and problems of the day.**

Wisdom has less to do with mere intellectual knowledge than it has to do with **the application of knowledge** in specific ways. **Wisdom is the skill in the art of living life with each component under the dominion and will of God.** When a person in the Old Testament demonstrated exceptional ability in a craft or art, that person was said to have what the Hebrew language calls "*hokma*". Or some render it as "skill." In Exod 31:3-5, God filled a man named Bezaleel with the Holy Spirit and with "skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts; to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in

all kinds of craftsmanship.” The word translated “skill” here is this word *hokma* or wisdom. Only God understands the way to wisdom because he alone is the source of true wisdom. The wisdom of God is evident in the beauty, order, richness, intricacy, variety and splendour of the created order and it is also evident in the person, powers and perfection of the God of creation.

Bezaleel was given the ability to take raw materials and shape them into something beautiful and ornate. In Proverbs, Solomon selected that Hebrew word, “*hokma*” to describe the quality needed by anyone who wanted to live a life of excellence.

The Practice of Wisdom

Believers are exhorted to walk not as fools but as wise redeeming the time, for the days are evil. There are three characteristics of a Christian who walks in wisdom and they are as follows:

1. Knowing what God’s Principles Are and Carefully Applying Them to our Lives.
2. Making Good Use of our Time because of the Evil Conditions of our Age and
3. Understanding what the Specific Will of God for our Life.

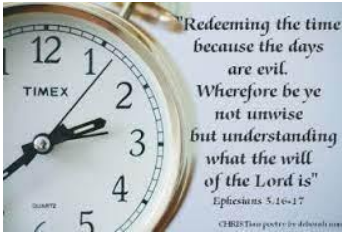
Paul in Eph 5:15 says, *See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.* Paul, having extended an invitation to us to awake out of spiritual darkness into the marvelous light, ie. become saved by trusting the Lord (verse 14). On the basis of receiving new life from Christ, Paul says we are to walk circumspectly or conduct our life watching carefully where we go. The word here means accurately, carefully and exactly, ie. to look from side to side, with alertness as to what is going on or to investigate the issue. (Matt 2:8; Luke 1:3; Acts 18:25; 1 Thess 5:2.) The word expresses that accuracy is the outcome of carefulness. It speaks of a narrow walk through life (Matt 7:13-14), where we take thoughtful care in our direction, without getting detoured. And this circumspect walk is one “not of fools but as wise”. **A circumspect walk is a careful walk in wisdom, which is to conduct one’s life and make advancement in God’s will, which is a responsible godly walk.**



Coming to faith In Christ through the work of the Spirit results in the immediate possibility of walking in wisdom in the Christian life. The moment we are saved, we become accountable to God and can choose to walk wisely (1 Cor 1:30-31; Col 2:9-10; Tit 2:11-15 and 3:3-8 Jer 31:33-34, Heb 8:10-13) if we really want to. What then is this wisdom? **Basically, it is the Christian’s innate fear of God and his practical understanding of the**

will of God leading to godly behaviour. It is a knowing and applying of the biblical principles of the righteous life.

The Test of Walking in Wisdom



Those who walk in wisdom are also to "redeem the time because the days are evil." What does it mean to redeem the time? The English word translated "time" is not continuous time, as measured in hours, days, weeks, months or years but a measured, allocated, fixed season or epoch. The Apostle Paul is noting the quality of the time, ie. "the days are evil."

(ie. **last days are difficult and perilous before Christ returns**). Here is the reason why we should redeem the time. We should walk in wisdom because this is a distinctly decadent and temporal age. (Gal. 1:4) So what does it mean to redeem the time? The term here means to buy back, ie. to purchase the time for ourselves for our time on earth is short. (Psa 90:12)

Paul is not merely exhorting us not to waste our precious limited time. He is saying we must go out of our way to seek out opportunity to serve God and advance His kingdom in evangelism missions. One cannot do if one is idle and wasting one's time. **Be alert, be alive, and seek out opportunities for the Lord.** Look for them and take them eagerly every time you are presented with one. This is important because the days are evil (ie. the depravity of this fallen system and the soon coming judgment) and the conditions in which we find ourselves in.

It is a call to seize one's opportunities (ie. the sharing of the gospel) for oneself in view of the particular evil of our contemporary world. **Instead of fools who waste time in trivial pursuits and ignore opportunities during these evil days,**



believers are to buy up the time for themselves, by seizing opportunities in contrast to the evil days in which they live. The wasting of time and opportunities is a foolish thing. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century American theologian and revivalist just before his twentieth birthday wrote: "**Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.**" The Psalmist captures the value of redeeming the time in view of our temporal existence, compared to the eternity of God in this life.

Our days are but threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, *“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom”* (Ps 90:9-12). Eph 5:17 says *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

When we know what God’s principles are and apply them obediently to our walk and make good use of our opportunities to share Christ because of the evil conditions of our age, we are not to be fools but understand what the specific will of God is for our life. Therefore, we are to walk carefully and to redeem the time. When we are obedient to God and carefully make full use of God given opportunities, then will we have an understanding of "what the will of the Lord is."

The Seeking of God’s Will as Wisdom

The "will of the Lord" in this case refers to the specific will of God, in contrast to the general will of God, mentioned in verse 15. At the moment of salvation, we are given the spiritual wisdom in Christ. As the New Covenant promise puts it, God "writes His law on our hearts" (Jer 31:33). And as we are obedient to the opportunities



provided, we follow and will understand the direct leading of God for our personal lives. **Obedience and sensitivity are required here to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:16)**

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding (Prov 3:13). Our postmodern culture is heavy on information and technology but weak on true practical and spiritual wisdom. Godly Christians must know how to take the raw material of knowledge and refine it into true lasting



wisdom, turning ordinary data into spiritual wisdom. **Spiritual wisdom perseveres;** it lasts beyond all the currents of culture and social norms, beyond the ephemeral fashions of the day. **Spiritual wisdom from above seeks that which will last and is willing to trade immediate gratification for an eternal reward. (Matt 6: 33)**

The Character of True Wisdom



There are 2 kinds of wisdom in the world. According to James in Jas 3:13-17, there are two kinds of wisdom: false, earthly and devilish wisdom which leads to strife, confusion and every evil deed and the other is true, heavenly, spiritual wisdom from God which has its

attributes. **They include purity, peace, mercy, gentleness, impartiality and not hypocrisy or sincerity among others and is easily entreated and is not implacable.** Do we measure up to these characteristics today? Wisdom is not just what you know but who you are (ie. your character) and what you do in practice. Something to ponder and pray about.

Conclusion

Folly or foolishness should not describe the redeemed life. The elect are called to walk worthy of our vocation wisely and circumspectly, ie. in wisdom where we know what God's principles are and submit to the spiritual rules that God has given to guide us. We are to make good use of our limited time by being alert to good opportunities to serve Christ because of the evil times in which we live. In order to understand what the specific will of God is, for our personal life, we need to pray for wisdom and to know, obey and do the sovereign will of God.

Therefore, let us be discreet and prudent in our thoughts, words, deeds; pray and read his Word daily, follow and obey God while we study, work in the marketplace or worship, pray or serve God wherever we are. Pray for wisdom for your family that they will be kept in the right direction with godly prudence and discretion in these last perilous days of much confusion and declension.



Jack Sin

Worship Service [1 May 2022]



Thank God for the fellowship and sharing of Sister Roska Choi Sihombing together with her daughter, son and friend Steven Yeo.



***Blessed
Birthday,
Joseph!***



BIBLICAL PARADOXES OF LIFE EXPOUNDED

LORD'S DAY PROGRAM APR-JUN 2022

APRIL

[3] FINDING & LOSING ONE'S LIFE

MATTHEW 10:31-39

[10*] CHOSEN BY GOD & ABIDING

JOHN 15:1-16

Good Friday Service

[15] DIVINE SATISFACTION AT THE CROSS

JOHN 19:25-42

Easter Service

[17] OF DYING & YET LIVING

MATTHEW 28:1-10

[24] SORROWFUL YET REJOICING

2 CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

MAY

[1] POOR & YET RICH

MATTHEW 5:5, PHILIPPIANS 4:10-19

[8*] TEMPORAL & ETERNAL

1 JOHN 5:1-13

[15] STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

[22] KNOWING THE LOVE OF CHRIST THAT SURPASSES KNOWLEDGE

EPHESIANS 3:11-19

[29] OF LIGHT & DARKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-7

JUNE

[5] OF HOLINESS & WORLDLINESS

1 JOHN 2:15-21

[12*] OF PERPLEXITY & PEACE

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-18

[19] SPIRIT OF TRUTH VS ERROR

1 JOHN 3:18-4:6

Gospel Sunday

[26] ENDLESS HOPE OR HOPELESS END?

ROMANS 5:1-11

Memory Verse

2 Cor 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “**Strength in Weakness**” (2Cor 12:1-10), continuing the new quarterly series on “**Biblical Paradoxes of Life Expounded**”.
3. Pastor speaks next Sunday on “**Knowing the Love of Christ that Surpasses Knowledge**” (Eph 3:11-19).
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - Study on 4 Early Old Testament Characters – Joseph
 - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
 - Burmese Bible Class - James
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. **The Church camp will be from 16-18 June at Changi Cove Hotel** on the theme “**Biblical Precepts for a Vibrant Christian Walk**” by Dr Jack Sin. Registration forms are available from Dn Yue Kay. Day trippers are also welcome.
8. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 3 Jun 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
9. Those who wish to bring a new friend to the worship service, kindly inform the safety officer Dn Yue Kay or Pastor at least a day in advance.
10. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**