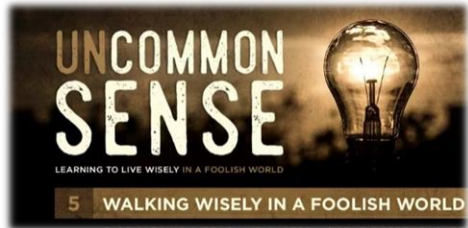


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Website: [www.sovereignhopebpc.org](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
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## WALKING WISELY IN A FOOLISH WORLD

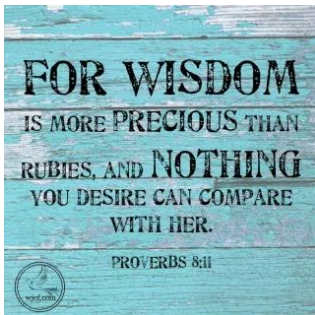
Wisdom is highly desirable by many today. It is not merely a matter of information or knowledge even with AI or getting a degree, but of skillful and practical application of the truth

(of God) 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 Wisdom

If God (or a messenger from God) approached you and offered to grant you one wish, what would it be? Would it be more money or success or assets? 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 (1King 3:10-12). Some thought they can get it from reading more books and/or getting more degrees from universities, 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 problems of the days. Wisdom has less to do with 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

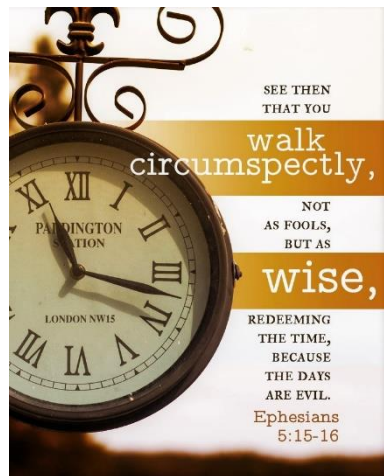
crafts; to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.” The word translated “skill” here is this word **hokma** or wisdom. Only God understands the way to wisdom because he alone is the source of true wisdom. The wisdom of God is evident in the beauty, order, richness, intricacy, variety and splendor 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. (Eph 5:15-16) 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 Lives.

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 darkness into the 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; cf Matt 2:8; Luke 1:3; Acts 18:25; 1Thess 5:2. "The word expresses that accuracy is the outcome of carefulness." It speaks of a narrow walk through life (cf Matt 7:13-14), where we take great thoughtful care in our direction, without getting detoured or tripping up. And this circumspect walk is one "not of fools but as wise". **A circumspect walk is a walk in wisdom, which is to conduct one's life and make advancement in God's will, which is a responsible godly walk.**



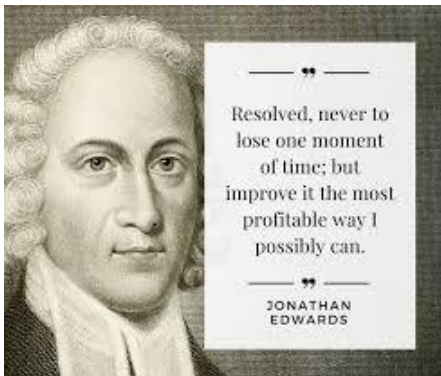
Coming to Christ in saving faith results in the immediate possibility of walking in wisdom in the Christian life. The moment we are saved, we are accountable to God and can choose to walk wisely 1Cor 1:30-31; Col 2:9-10; Tit 2:11-15 and 3:3-8 Jer 31:33-34, Heb 8:10-13) if we really want to. What then 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 evil age; cf 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.

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 opportunity to serve God and advance His kingdom. 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, of course, is all-important, because the days are evil (ie the depravity of the system and the soon coming judgment) and the conditions in which we find ourselves.

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

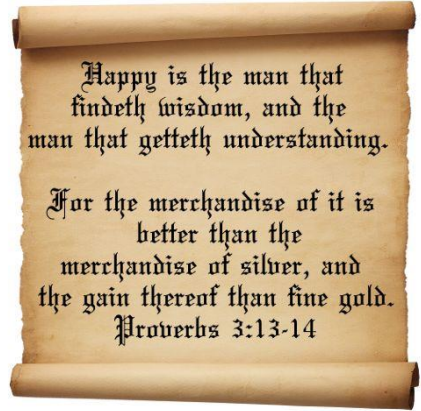


wrote: "**Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.**" The Psalmist captures the value of redeeming the time in view of our temporal existence, compared to the eternity of God in this life. Our days are but threescore years and ten; and if 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 *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 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 circumspectly and to redeem the time. When we are obedient to God and carefully make full use of 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*", cf Jer 31:33. And as we are obedient to that and seize 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 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 crude 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 seeks that which will last and is willing to trade immediate gratification for an eternal reward.



## The Character of True Wisdom

There are all kinds of claims to wisdom by 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 true, heavenly, spiritual wisdom from God which has its attributes. They include purity, peace, mercy, gentleness, impartiality and non-hypocrisy or sincerity among others. Do we measure up to these characteristics today? Something to think and pray about.

## Conclusion

**Folly or foolish living should not be used to describe the redeemed life. The elect are called to walk 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 time by seizing our opportunities 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 will of God. Therefore, let us be wise in our thoughts, words, deeds; pray and read his Word daily, follow and obey God while we study, work or serve in the National Service. Then one will be kept in the right direction with godly prudence and discretion in these last perilous days.

*Jack Sin*



## ***The Bible - My Sacred Companion***

The Bible's my companion and ever my light,  
To guide and direct through the darkest night,  
The Word of life exudes with fragrance new,  
That blesses the soul with its spiritual brew.

~

That precious Book that's worth a gem,  
Life-giving Words that speak of a Lamb,  
Who took our place at Calvary's Cross,  
That we who believe will never be lost.

~

Every Word's pure and inspired from above,  
If only we heed it and do it in love,  
Our lives transform and our minds renew,  
Through these sacred pages that ever reveal.

~

Cherished and relished by sinners and saints,  
Though others tried to destroy but in vain,  
Dynasties have risen, kingdoms have fallen,  
But still the Bible remains unshaken.

~

Thank God for writing a Book so grand,  
In it is conceived a wondrous plan,  
That we can go to that heavenly Land,  
If only we believe, receive and repent.

*Dr Jack Sin*  
*Sovereign Hope BPC*  
*Singapore*  
*2024*

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## *An Encounter of a Different Kind*

On 28 May, I was at Bedok Mall when two American students approached me and spoke to me about God in Chinese and gave me a Chinese book. When I looked at it, it is the Book of Mormons (in Chinese) and they shared that they are missionaries here to share the good news.

I let them talk for about 10 to 15mins before asking them if Jesus is God. One of the replied, "No but he is the Son of God".

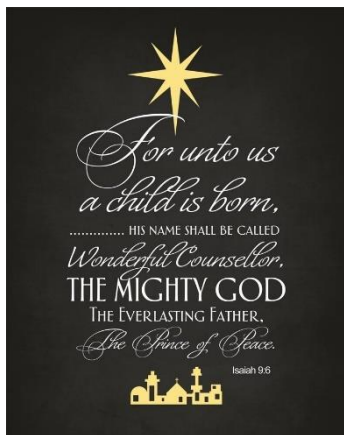
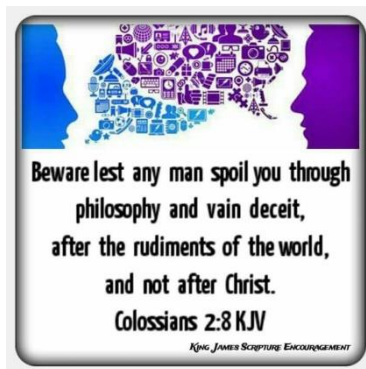
I asked if there is a difference They said, "Yes, as he is not equal to God the Father although he is some kind of deity."

I asked them whether they had a Bible and could read 1Tim 3:16. One of them did and that verse said, "*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*" **God was manifested in the flesh** - I asked them who is this

person described here. They replied they do not know. I explained that the context referred to Christ who is God. They are surprised but not convinced by it.

Then I added, "Would you like to look at Isa 9:6 on how is Christ who is prophesied to be born by Isaiah describe here? It has the phrase "the Mighty God". By then, one of them said, "We are busy; we have to be going but do read this book of Mormons and it will tell you more about God and salvation."

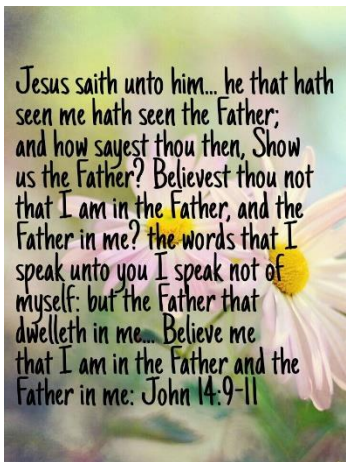
Although they are usually friendly people, they are deceived by a false religion that distorts the nature of God, the Person of Jesus Christ, and the means of salvation. Pray that our short encounter will cause them to think deeply about who Christ really is from the Bible and not to continue in the Mormon Cult.



### **Some False Beliefs of the Mormons**

There are about 17 million Mormons worldwide and they are growing. They have a strong presence in Asia, especially Singapore. One of their many teachings that is different from biblical Christianity is that they believe:

- Jesus is not God
- There is no Trinity
- Ultimate salvation includes works and
- Obeying the teachings of Joseph Smith among others.



Mormons believe Jesus is a smaller god, but that any human can also become a god. But Jesus claims to be God and said that “if you have seen me, you have seen the Father”.

Mormons also falsely teaches that there are different levels or kingdoms in the afterlife: the celestial kingdom, the terrestrial kingdom, the testial kingdom, and outer darkness which is contrary to the Bible.

Mormon leaders have taught that Jesus’ incarnation was the result of a physical relationship between God the Father and Mary which is a blasphemy. (see Walter Martin, Kingdom of the Cults, Bethany House, 2020 for a deeper study of more of these false teachings of the cult.)

Though they got it wrong in their cardinal doctrines, they are so zealous though for a wrong cause, and they willingly give up 2 years of their lives to go overseas to spread a false gospel. It is a warning and saddens us too to see the profound deception of our times that has affected many. What about us?

### Conclusion

It should also humble us as we need to ask ourselves if we have half the zeal of them to share Christ even though we have the right biblical message of true salvation.

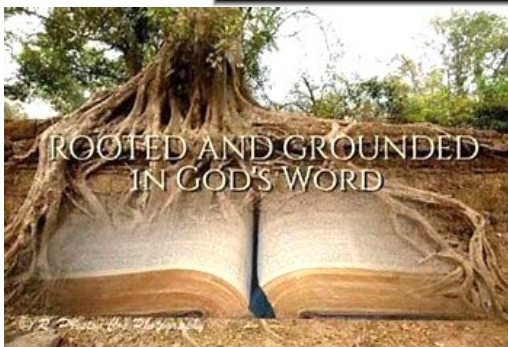
**Do we really have a burden for the lost or have we lost the burden?**

**Is the Great Commission our Great Omission?**

Something to think about, pray and act upon while there is yet time.



*Jack Sin*



## Memory Verse

*Deut 6:2* That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund.
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Discipline of the Christian Family [Deut 6:1-25]***", the quarterly series on "***Christian Disciplines in the Lord***".
3. Next Sunday, Rev Nathan will preach on "***Discipline of Reverential Worship [1Chr 16:23-29, 1Cor 14:33, 40]***".
4. **Sunday School is a Combined Class by Rev David Khobal** after the worship service.
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on Old Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. Join us for a time of profitable learning. [**Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178**].
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. [**Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551**].
7. Pray for:
  - Rev David Khobal & Eld Habakkuk's return to Myanmar on 17 Jun and their respective ministries.
  - Medical: Samuel Wong [multiple health conditions], Aunty Chwee Lian [hip fracture], Daniel Phang [high blood pressure], Kin Hoong [monitoring of heart and lungs pressure], Anthony [lung cancer].
8. 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**

Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.