

September 20, 2015 – Sermon Notes, Pastor Alan Smith

“Pure Wisdom”

- Did you watch the political debate this week?
- If you did you saw bits of wisdom, times of childish behavior and times you just scratch your head.
- I found myself getting upset because they weren't asking questions about the issues. It seemed to me that it was more about trying to start an argument between two candidates. What about the issues? What about how they would handle the economy, international affairs, or the domestic violence that we have.
- There seemed to be very little wisdom in that debate. Is there any wisdom in the world today?
- Where does wisdom come from? True wisdom comes from God.
- **Job 12:13 (NLT) — 13 “But true wisdom and power are found in God; counsel and understanding are his.**
- **James 3:17 (NLT) — 17 But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. it shows no favoritism and is always sincere.**
- We that true wisdom is found in God alone. Not in the world.
- How do we receive this wisdom? Does it come by going to church or by hanging out with Christians?
- There are different steps to receive Gods wisdom.
- We receive His wisdom through the scriptures.
- **Psalm 19:7 (NLT) — 7 The instructions of the LORD are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.**
- **Psalm 119:130 (NLT) — 130 The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.**
- **Matthew 7:24 (NLT) — 24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.**
- Makes the simple wise.
- When we listen to and follow the teachings of Jesus we are wise.

- Is just hearing the word of God or reading His word make us wise? Is that the only step we have to do to achieve wisdom?
- There is something else we must do to achieve wisdom.
- **Proverbs 15:33 (NLT) — 33 Fear of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.**
- **Isaiah 33:6 (NLT) — 6 In that day he will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge. The fear of the LORD will be your treasure.**
- Having the fear of the Lord that will teach us wisdom.
- Not the kind of fear that we have when we are scared of something but when we have great respect for God.
- So to restate Proverbs 33 Respect of the LORD teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.
- So out of respect of God we submit to His wisdom. When you have had a teacher that you respect you would hang on every word they said because of that respect you had for them. It is the same way with God. If we have great respect for Him we will hang onto every word that He says.
- Another way of getting God's wisdom is through His Holy Spirit.
- Have you ever talked with someone and you were trying to explain a spiritual truth but the words were not coming out? Then all of a sudden an explanation came to you from out of the blue? That is the Holy Spirit!
- **1 Corinthians 12:8 (NLT) — 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge.**
- **Ephesians 1:17 (NLT) — 17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.**
- God will give us the wisdom we need if we only ask.
- **James 1:5 (NLT) — 5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.**

- **Colossians 1:9 (NLT) — 9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
- **Proverbs 2:3–6 (NLT) — 3 Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. 4 Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. 5 Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.**
- Isn't it great that God would give us the wisdom we need just because we asked?
- Now we have seen that this pure wisdom comes from God. Given to us through the Holy Spirit. Is found in the scriptures. What about the world's wisdom? How does it compare to God's?
- **Worldly wisdom is foolishness to God**
- **Psalm 94:11 (NLT) — 11 The LORD knows people's thoughts; he knows they are worthless!**
- **Romans 1:21–23 (NLT) — 21 Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. 22 Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. 23 And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.**
- The world's wisdom can't lead you to God
- **1 Corinthians 1:21 (NLT) — 21 Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.**
- **Isaiah 55:9 (NLT) — 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**
- God's wisdom is so much different than the world's. Just as God said through Isaiah.
- Worldly wisdom builds up pride and a false hope.

- **Colossians 2:23 (NLT) — 23** These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires.
- I go back to the debate and think about everyone that said I have the answer and if you make me president...
- **Isaiah 47:10 (NLT) — 10** “You felt secure in your wickedness. ‘No one sees me,’ you said. But your ‘wisdom’ and ‘knowledge’ have led you astray, and you said, ‘I am the only one, and there is no other.’
- To say you can compare God's wisdom and the world's is foolishness because there is no comparison.
- **Acts 6:10 (NLT) — 10** None of them could stand against the wisdom and the Spirit with which Stephen spoke.
- We need to take this wisdom to the world.
- **Ephesians 3:10 (NLT) — 10** God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.
- It is the purpose of the church to be used by God and display His wisdom to a foolish world.