



Practical Christian Living

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you". Matthew 6:33
Course 4 Lesson 3

The **BEST CHOICE**



KEY VERSE:

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."
James 1:5*

Dear Friend,

If you could have any one of the following, which would you choose?

- Good looks
- Riches
- Popularity
- Knowledge
- Power
- Wisdom
- Fame
- Friends
- Security
- Happiness

The Bible tells about a young man who was actually given such a choice by God Himself. The young man's name was Solomon. He had just become king of Israel. One day God appeared to Solomon in a dream and said to him, "Ask what I shall give you."

Solomon could have asked for riches, or for power, or for pleasure, but he asked God to give him wisdom. Solomon said,

"I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in.... Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people..."¹



Solomon's choice of wisdom pleased God very much. God said that Solomon would be the wisest man who ever lived. God not only gave him wisdom, but He also gave him wealth, honor and power such as no other man ever had. We see from this what a high value God places on wisdom. The Bible says,

*"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom."
Proverbs 4:7*

WHAT IS WISDOM?

Wisdom is thinking right thoughts and making right choices. Wisdom comes from seeing things as God sees them.

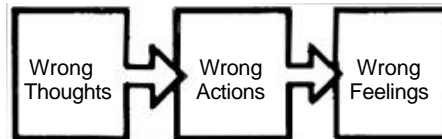
Seeing things as God sees them enables us to understand the root causes of our problems and to know what to do about them. It enables us to discover God's principles for a happy and successful life.

WE MUST THINK CORRECTLY

If we are to see things as God sees them and make the right choices, then we must think

correctly. The Bible says, "As he thinks in his heart, so is he."²

Our thoughts are very important. What we think determines what we feel. If we accept wrong thoughts, it will result in wrong actions and wrong feelings.



Wrong thoughts lead to wrong actions and wrong feelings.

When Satan came to deceive Adam and Eve, he began by telling Eve a lie. God had said that, if they ate of the tree of knowledge, they would surely die. But Satan said, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."³



Eve accepted Satan's lie.

Eve accepted Satan's lie. She was deceived into thinking that by eating the forbidden fruit, they would be as gods. This wrong thought led to a wrong action - she took the fruit and ate it. This was an act of disobedience. Adam also disobeyed God. These wrong actions led to feelings of fear and shame. When God came down that evening to walk and talk with Adam and Eve, they tried to hide from God.

WHERE DO WRONG THOUGHTS COME FROM?

Wrong thoughts come from Satan and from his ungodly world-system. The Bible tells us that Satan is the real ruler of this world-system. He is called "the god of this world."

Satan's world-system is based on pride, lust, greed, and selfishness. The world-system is directly opposed to God and His wisdom. The Bible says,

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:16

DON'T ACCEPT "THE WISDOM OF THE WORLD"

Since we live in the world, we are constantly being exposed to the thoughts, ideas, opinions, and values of the world. These are wrong thoughts because they come from Satan's world-system.

Accepting "the wisdom of the world" leads to wrong thoughts, wrong actions and wrong feelings.

● **The world says, "Live for today. You only go through life once, so grab all the pleasure you can".**

God says that there is another life after this life - an eternal

life. What we do in this life affects our eternal destiny.

● **The world says, "If it feels good, do it."**

God says, "If you live after the flesh, you will die,"⁴

● **The world says, "Have a good time while you can. You can settle down later."**

God say, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."⁵



Don't accept the "wisdom of the world!"

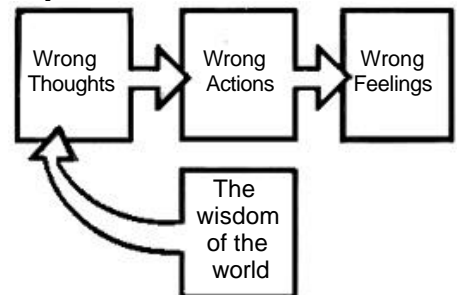
The "wisdom of the world" overlooks the fact that there is a terrible price to pay for sin, both in this life and in the life to come. We are accountable to God for what we do in this life. One day we must stand before God to be judged for what we did in this life. The Bible says,

"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27

There is also the matter of "reaping" what we sow. The world says, "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die." One thing wrong with this is that we don't usually die tomorrow. Instead, we live to reap the bitter fruits of our wrong actions. As an example of this, a 42-year-old woman lamented,

"When I was young, I fell in-to sins that have marred my life.

My secret sins were committed in my teenage years. I have cried and cried in remorse.... If only God would give me peace and take away the awful guilt out of my life."



Accepting the wisdom of the world leads to wrong thoughts, wrong actions, and wrong feelings.

GOD WANTS US TO BE WISE

God does not want His children to walk in darkness as do the people of this world. We are

children of light and God tells us to "walk as children of light." The Bible says,

"See then that ye walk circumspectly (carefully, wisely) not as fools, but as wise." Ephesians 5:15

Let us consider some things we can do to make us wise.

1. RECOGNIZE GOD'S PRESENCE

We dare not live our lives as though God did not exist. The Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."⁶

What is "the fear of the Lord"? It is the continual awareness that we live in God's presence at all times. We remember who God is and we honor Him as God. We do not want to displease or grieve Him.

As you learn to live in the continual awareness of God's presence, you will be less and less concerned about what others may think of you or what they may say, and you will be more and more concerned to please the Lord. Paul said,

"Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him." II Corinthians 5:9

2. LOOK TO GOD FOR WISDOM

Our God is all-wise. All true wisdom comes from Him. God delights to give His wisdom to those who come to Him and ask for it. The Bible says,

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

One of our greatest dangers as Christians is to trust in our own wisdom instead of asking God for His wisdom. The Bible says,

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto

thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5,6

3. RENEW YOUR MIND

We are constantly being exposed to the thoughts, ideas, and values of the world. Before we were saved, we accepted the ways of the world. Consequently our minds were filled with many wrong thoughts and ideas.

How can we get rid of wrong thoughts and ideas? We get rid of them by renewing our mind. The Bible says,

"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2

"Renewing" means to change something by cleaning it up and completely redoing it. God wants our minds to be renewed. Our minds are renewed as we replace wrong thoughts and ideas with God's truth. The Lord Jesus said,

"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

When God's truth replaces the wrong ideas and wrong thoughts of the world, we will be transformed to be more like the Lord Jesus. This is the way to a happy and successful life.

4. MAKE RIGHT CHOICES

Being wise is not just knowing what God wants us to do. It is choosing it and doing it. There is great reward in choosing God's way. Jesus said,

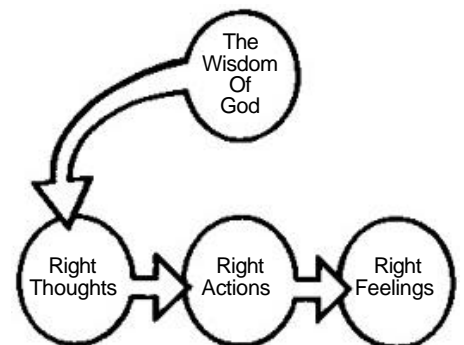
"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17

A young girl chose God's will and God's way in her life. To her friends it seemed as though

Julijanna was missing out on so many of life's pleasures. But she had her reward. Later, a friend wrote about her,

"Julijanna did not follow the ways of sin in her youth. She chose to remain alone rather than to accompany the rest of us to the dances and parties where there was wickedness and immorality. Look at Julijanna. She has a wonderful life and a beautiful man who loves her deeply. She is happy down to her soul. Now Julijanna is eating the fruit of her obedient life."⁷

A great man of God once said, "A life of happiness depends on yielding your life to God to do His will in all things, at all times, because we have, once for all, settled that it is the best thing for us."



Accepting the wisdom of God leads to right thoughts, right actions, and right feelings.



Discovered Gem

Right (wise) thinking produces right actions; right actions produces right feelings.

1. I Kings 3: 7,8 2. Proverbs 23: 7
 3. Genesis 3: 4,5 4. Romans 8: 13
 5. Galatians 6: 7 6. Proverbs 9: 10
 7. from *Of Whom the World Was Not Worthy*, Bethany Fellowship
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MEDITATION GUIDE

(TO STUDY AS YOU PREPARE FOR THE NEXT LESSON)

INSTRUCTIONS

On the following pages there is a Meditation Guide for each of the three lessons in this booklet. Each Guide has a key verse, comments, and questions that will help you to see from the Bible the main message of the lesson.

AFTER YOU FINISH the Question Pages, and have sent them in, we suggest that you work on the meditations. Do NOT send in your meditations. They are for you to personally use and keep.

THE PURPOSE of the Meditation Guide is to help you learn how to study the Bible on your own. It will help you to think (meditate) about a portion of Scripture in order to understand it. It will help you learn how to get in touch with God through His Word and through prayer.

MEDITATION. What does "meditation" mean? It does not mean to let your mind go blank. Quite the contrary, meditation means that you get hold of your thoughts and bring them all

together to concentrate on a portion of God's Word. As you do this, it gives the Lord an opportunity to make Himself known to you.

PAUSE TO PRAY. Before beginning each meditation, pause to pray, quieting your heart before the Lord so that you will be ready to hear what He has to say to you from the Bible.

If there are any words you do not understand, be sure to look them up in a dictionary.

MEMORY VERSE. You may wish to memorize the Key Verses, or other verses found in these Meditation Guides. Memorizing Scripture is one of the best means to meditate on God's Word. It would also be very helpful in keeping before you the main truth of each lesson.

NOTE: The King James Bible was used in preparing these Meditation Guides.

KEEP THIS GUIDE - DO NOT SEND IT IN

Lesson 3: THE BEST CHOICE

Key Verse:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." James 1:5

Open your Bible to this verse. Underline it. As you read the verse over several times, concentrate on what it is saying to you. Take time to think and pray.

According to this verse, how do you get wisdom? _____

Now, read James 1:6. How should we ask for wisdom? _____

What is a person like who does not ask according to verse 6? _____

Turn to James 3. Verses 14, 15 and 16 tell us that there is a wisdom that does come from God. How do we act if we have this wisdom that does not come from God? _____

Read verse 17. This verse gives us a description of the wisdom that comes from God. In your own words, give a description of godly wisdom. _____

Do you have this kind of wisdom? _____

In prayer, thank God that He gives wisdom. Thank Him that the wisdom He gives is pure. Look at James 3:17, and thank the Lord for each aspect of the wisdom that He gives.

INSTRUCTIONS

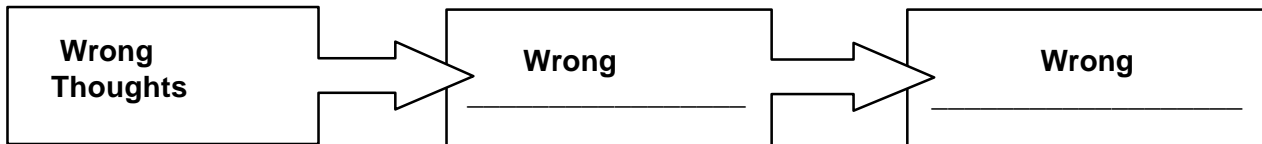
- 1. Turn to the Question Page as you finish each lesson. Fill in the answers for that lesson before going on to the next lesson.
- 2. When you have studied all the lessons and have completed the Question Pages, prepare for mailing. Don't forget to write in your name and return address. Send in your ANSWER SHEET ONLY!

EXAM

Lesson 3

1. What is wisdom? _____
 _____ Wisdom comes from _____

2. Fill in:



3. Give an example of the wisdom of the world and what God's Word says about it:

The world says, _____

God says, _____

4. Name 4 things we can do to make us wise: 1. _____
 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____

Which is needed most in your life? _____

5. Being wise is not just _____ what God wants us to do. It is _____ it and _____ it .

What are the things that you have learned in this lesson that will help you most in your Christian life? _____

Send your exam to the following address:
Latin Evangelical Outreach
 P.O. Box 549
 Irvington, New Jersey 07111-0549

Your Name and Address.....Please Print

Complete Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP Code _____

Do you have friends who would like to receive these lessons?

Please send us their address:

Complete Name _____

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