

# Wisdom & Experience

- Our first grasp of wisdom:
- Learned letters and vowels ... began to read
- Learned numbers and symbols ... + - \* /
- Over time we have become very wise.
- Riding a bike 1<sup>st</sup> ride/fall ... learn to balance ...
- Typing on a keyboard 1<sup>st</sup> hunt and peck ... 60 wpm
- Driving 1<sup>st</sup> which is gas/brake ... without thought
- 1<sup>st</sup> we learn ... then we apply ... then we gain experience... then we have wisdom.
- The more experience ... The more wisdom

# Wisdom and Experience

- Every habit and skill we possess is the result of experience that has created wisdom.
- The more experience and wisdom, the greater the ability to know how to do things well.
- A great blessing when a difficult problem is made easy.
- Yet God has revealed to us that some of the things we are wise at is folly.
- A wide chasm between emptiness of worldly wisdom and wealth of spiritual wisdom.

# Curse of Worldly Wisdom

- Not Everything we know and are proficient in is wise
- For *the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing*, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “*I will destroy the wisdom of the wise*, ... 26 For you see your calling, brethren, that *not many wise according to the flesh*, not many *mighty*, not many *noble*, are called. 27 But God *has chosen the foolish things of the world* to put to *shame the wise*, and God has chosen the *weak things of the world* to put to shame the things which are mighty; 28 and the *base things of the world* and the *things which are despised* God has chosen, and the *things which are not*, to bring to nothing the things that are, 29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 1C 1:18-22 Cor 1:26-30
- If we learn wrongly – Hard to Unlearn!

# Grave Need to Reassess Our Wisdom

- Just because we are really good at something doesn't mean we are truly wise...
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. 1Cor 3:18-*
- **The paradox:**
  - What is wise is foolish ... to World ... To Christian
  - What is foolish is wise ... to World ... To Christian
  - What we consider wise and foolish proclaims either our worldliness or our spirituality

# Un-learning & Re-learning

- *“You can’t teach an old dog new tricks”* – proverb for lazy people who don’t want to unlearn / relearn
- There is nothing more difficult but necessary
- *For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but **I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.** Rom 16:19*

# If We See Ourselves – There is Hope!

- *The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall. Pr. 10:8*
- *To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom. Pr. 10:23*
- *The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise. Pr. 12:15*
- *A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart. Pr. 18:2*
- *Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. Pr. 26:12*
- *The wise man's eyes are in his head, But the fool walks in darkness. Eccl. 2:14*

# No Easy Way to Renew Our Mind

- *And do **not be conformed to this world**, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom 12:2*
- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is **a new creation**; **old things have passed away**; **behold all things have become new**. 2Cor 5:17-18*
- *since you have **put off the old man with his deeds**, **10** and have **put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge** according to **the image of Him who created him**, Col 3:9-11*

# The GREATEST Obstacle

- Most difficult step in exchanging Worldly wisdom (folly) for the wisdom from above (true wisdom) is to identify it (renew mind)
- We can't see all our faults. But if we are open to listening to see ourselves more clearly, we will be wise indeed!
- If we respond to criticism (in a sermon or an individual) with disbelief or anger, we will never be able to see ourselves clearly enough to grow as we should.

# We all Claim it: Can We Prove it?

- The very thing described in Proverbs is the key James uses to test ourselves.
- *Who is wise and understanding among you?*  
**Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.**  
Jas. 3:13-14
- Not just conformed to old ways...
- Our works manifest “***meekness of wisdom***”

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- “*prautes... Gentleness, mildness, meekness...*”  
(Thayer p 535; 4240)
- “*prautes... “mild and gentle friendliness,”* is the opposite of roughness... of bad temper, or sudden anger... and brusqueness...” (Kittel, Vol 6 p 645)
- **“In English, “meekness” suggests weakness to a greater or less extent, whereas “prautes” does nothing of the kind. The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power.” (Vines)**
- Our response to rebuke and attempts to help us reveals our Wisdom.

# Our Response Reveals Our Wisdom

- Do not correct **a scoffer**, lest he **hate you**; Rebuke a wise man, and **he will love you**. 9 Give **instruction to a wise man**, and he will **be still wiser**; Teach a **just man**, and he will **increase in learning**. Prov 9:8-9
- He who **disdains instruction despises his own soul**, But he who **heeds rebuke gets understanding**. Prov 15:32
- **Rebuke** is more **effective for a wise man** Than a hundred blows on a fool. Prov 17:10
- Strike a **scoffer**, and the simple **will become wary**; Rebuke one who has **understanding**, and he **will discern knowledge**. Prov 19:25

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- In the eyes of the world the “meek” are weak, only acting meekly because they don’t have the strength to do anything else.
- Children often call the gentle and mild a “*sissy*”, or a “*chicken*” because of worldly wisdom.
- Worldly Wisdom: Only wimps and cowards act with gentleness and mildness when mistreated.
- This is the pride of life masquerading as wisdom. If we can’t change this we are fools.
- Meekness is a choice of the powerful who are truly wise.

# Things that Reveal Folly

- *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. James 3:14-16*
- Do we have a wisdom that does not descend from above?
- Is our wisdom Earthly, Sensual, Demonic?

# The Wisdom from Above

- *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:17-18*
- If this is an exact description of my character and goals then I am truly wise.
- If I still see these things as being folly and weakness then I have the wrong wisdom.

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