



God Most High

Life Group Study Notes

#5. The Wisdom of God

Opening Up

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Romans 11:33 (NIV)

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. James 3:17 (NIV)

Some have said that our modern world is long on knowledge but short on wisdom. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Drilling Down

1. Read each of the following quotes. What strikes you in each one and why?

"A simple person often excels a learned one in wisdom. Knowledge and wisdom are rooted in different human capacities. We acquire knowledge by study, wisdom by insight.... Knowledge is theoretical; wisdom is practical and goal-oriented. Knowledge is a matter of the mind apart from the will; wisdom, though a matter of the mind, is made subservient to the will.... [Wisdom] is ethical in nature; it is 'the art of living well'; it characterizes the conduct of those who make the right use of their greater store of knowledge and match the best means to the ends." .” – Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics*

"When Christian theology declares that God is wise, it means vastly more than it says or can say, for it tries to make a comparatively weak word bear an incomprehensible plenitude of meaning that threatens to tear it apart and crush it under the sheer weight of the idea. His understanding is infinite, says the psalmist. It is nothing less than infinitude that theology is here laboring to express." -- A. W. Tozer. *The Knowledge of the Holy* (p. 77)

Q. 2. *What is the essential wisdom of God?*

A. The essential wisdom of God is his most exact and perfect knowledge of himself and all his creatures, and his ordering and disposing them in the most convenient manner, to the glory of his own name. Ephesians 1:11. "According to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." – John Flavel, *Of God's Wisdom*

2. The word omniscient refers to the divine attribute of possessing all knowledge. The omniscience of God means that He possesses perfect knowledge of all things past, present, and future – immediately, effortlessly, simultaneously, and exhaustively. There's nothing hidden from God. There is never the slightest difference between God's knowledge and what really is. He not only knows all the facts, but He

interprets them with perfect wisdom.... Every creature, every deed and every thought is before him like an open book. Read the following Scriptures and comment on what they teach about God's wisdom.

- 1 Samuel 2:3
- Ps. 33:13-15
- Hebrews 4:13
- Ps. 104:
- Isaiah 40:13-14
- Romans 11:33-36

What can we learn about wisdom from the following passages?

- Proverbs 3:13
- 1 Kings 3:5-28
- James 3:17

Looking In

How does confidence in the wisdom of God bring comfort in times of trouble or distress or uncertainty?
How do you intentionally seek, enact and rely upon the wisdom of God?

Moving Out

In what area of your life do you need God's wisdom this week? How will you pursue it?

