

Newsletter – Sunday 13th March 2022

Questions for reflection

1. What conclusion does Solomon come to regarding the nature of wisdom?
2. Explore the difference between wisdom and knowledge.
3. With reference to James 3:13, discuss why knowledge leads to pride and wisdom to humility.
4. How has this study changed your personal definition of wisdom?

Reading: Ecclesiastes 7: 11-25

Bible References

Ecclesiastes 1:16-17 'I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." Then I applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind'.

Ecclesiastes 7: 23-24 'All this I tested by wisdom and I said, "I am determined to be wise"- but this was beyond me. Whatever wisdom may be, it is far off and most profound—who can discover it?'

Ecclesiastes 8:17 'Then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all their efforts to search it out, no one can discover its meaning. Even if the wise claim they know, they cannot really comprehend it'.

Ecclesiastes 12:11-12 The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails—given by one Shepherd. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them.

Job 28:12-13 'But where can wisdom be found? Where does understanding dwell? No mortal comprehends its worth; it cannot be found in the land of the living'.

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

1 Corinthians 1:19-24 Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 3:20 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness" and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile".

Colossians 2:2-3 'My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'.

Colossians 2:23 'Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence'.

James 3:17 '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 3:13 'Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.'

1 Corinthians 8:1-2 'Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know'.

News

Mission Newsflash - The Mission Committee has sent a donation of \$2000 on behalf of the church to the Baptist World Alliance Ukraine Appeal. This will be used by the Baptist churches for the needs of refugees fleeing from the current conflict.

To watch a video clip about the work of Baptist churches in Ukraine during the conflict, see “A call to respond” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhaqTyI96jU>

Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in both Ukraine and Russia as their lives are torn apart by the war.

Pray that their faith in God will stay strong and that their hearts will know God's peace as they trust Him for their everyday needs, safety and a resolution to the present conflict.

Honey is available – Adrian Carter has restocked supplies of his delicious honey, here in the office! It is still available in 1kg jars, for \$25, as well as a new size of 500g jars, for \$15.

Strength and Balance – classes will continue on Mondays at 9.30am in the church hall.

Walk and Talk – meet every Wednesday at Lake Te Ko Utu carpark at 9.30am and then at 10am at Columbus Café (at Mitre 10). Please feel free to join us on the walk or just for coffee. Feel free to bring a friend. For more info, contact Ann Hugill - 021 155 2023