

Knowledge of the Holy  
"The Wisdom of God" - Chapter 11

1. What is the difference between God being omniscient and God being all wise?

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2. What do each of the following verses teach regarding God's wisdom?

Job 12:13 \_\_\_\_\_

Daniel 2:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 11:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Revelation 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Paul's benediction in Romans 16:27 refers to God as "the only wise." In what way is God the only wise? What is the wisdom of men in relationship to this truth?

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4. Consider 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 for the following questions:

A. What is the worldly wisdom for which the Greeks search (vs. 22)? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why can't worldly wisdom lead to a knowledge of God (vs. 21)? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Why is the wisdom of God foolish to the worldly wise? \_\_\_\_\_

D. What is required of man to gain godly wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Knowledge of the Holy

### "The Wisdom of God" - Chapter 11

1. What is the difference between God being omniscient and God being all wise?

God's omniscience is being infinite in regard to knowledge

God's wisdom is being infinite in regard to understanding. That is, God is infinite in regard to knowledge and the relationship of all aspects of knowledge to all other aspects of knowledge - i.e. the relationship of all things to all other things - and He is infinite in the application of knowledge and understanding in achieving the desired results.

2. What do each of the following verses teach regarding God's wisdom?

Job 12:13 - "With Him are wisdom and might; To Him belong counsel and understanding.

Job understood that not only is wisdom to be found with God - but the elements that arise from wisdom - counsel and understanding - belong to God (which is why wisdom is with God)

Daniel 2:20 - Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him.

Daniel also recognized that wisdom belongs to God. The idea that God possesses / owns wisdom is a much stronger than the idea that God has wisdom. The origin of wisdom is God - He does not gain it from an outside source

Romans 11:33 - "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

The wisdom and knowledge of God are beyond human comprehension even with diligence given in the attempt to grasp it.

Revelation 5:12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

An indication of God the Son as the Lamb being glorified by the Father. Part of our struggle to understand the nature of Jesus is this dual nature of being both God and man - in His deity, all of these things already belong to Him infinity, but as the Lamb (man), these are things in which He grew - see Luke 2:40

3. Paul's benediction in Romans 16:27 refers to God as "the only wise." In what way is God the only wise? What then is the wisdom of men in relationship to this truth?

Two answers: 1) God's wisdom is infinite, therefore all other wisdom is nothing by comparison.

2) God is wise in Himself, all other beings are wise only in reflection of God as their creator. This means that wisdom only resides in God and is distributed to other beings only to the limited extent that they reflect God

4. Consider 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 for the following questions:

A. What is the worldly wisdom for which the Greeks search (vs. 22)? Wisdom (σοφία) for the Greeks was both philosophical and practical. They viewed wisdom as the quality of being materially complete - hence the wisdom displayed in practical abilities in producing / doing things - i.e. a wise builder, farmer, general, physician, goldsmith, etc. There was also a theoretical component of intellectual ability which came to dominate the thinking / efforts of the philosophers i.e. who could put together the "wisest" argument / comprehensive system of understanding

according to man's ability to reason. It is this later idea that Paul refers to here as "worldly wisdom" - what can be understood according to the reasoning of man

B. Why can't worldly wisdom lead to a knowledge of God (vs. 21)? Worldly wisdom is limited to man's ability to reason - that is true of all the Greek systems of philosophy - however, the very nature of God transcends man's ability to observe, know, and reason. God is infinite in all His attributes, and a finite creature - man - cannot comprehend the infinite. Finite man can only gain a limited understanding of God, an infinite Being, by what God reveals of Himself to man. Man's reasoning will always end up limiting God to something he can understand, which will always be less than what God actually is.

C. Why is the wisdom of God foolish to the worldly wise? The wisdom of God does not match what the worldly wise consider to be wisdom. Their pride controls them so that they reject what does not fit within their system of understanding - and the specific point in the text is that Christ crucified is outside their various systems of understanding, so to all of them it is foolishness. Hence the reaction by some of the areopagites of sneering at Paul when he proclaimed that God raised Jesus from the dead. Resurrection is outside their experience and knowledge base, therefore it was foolishness to them.

D. What is required of man to gain godly wisdom? He must acknowledge the fact that He is limited and humble himself before the infinite God so that he can accept what God has revealed about Himself and His will / actions

5. In what ways does the Creation exhibit the wisdom of God? (Tozer - top of page 67) All of Creation is a display of the wisdom of God - and especially in its complexities and intricacies - and every field of possible study has them from hard sciences such as math, physics and chemistry, to soft sciences such as biology and ecology, to the arts and even history.
6. Why is the Creation an insufficient revelation of God's wisdom. Humans can understand from Creation something about God's eternal power and divine nature (Romans 1:20) - this would include His immensity (Psalm 8), provision (Psalm 104:27), kindness, tolerance and patience (Romans 2:4), but Creation cannot reveal even the fullness of these attributes, much less His many other attributes which are only known / understood through Scriptural revelation. This would include His love, justice and plan for the present and eternity.
7. What does James 1:5 reveal about the source of wisdom for man? Humbly ask God
8. What is the relationship between godly wisdom and faith? There is a direct relationship - it takes faith to believe what God has revealed, and only through that revelation can we gain godly wisdom. Searching for wisdom apart from faith will lead to worldly (even demonic) wisdom because you are immediately back to human reason and experience as the basis of truth instead of God's word.
9. By faith we believe that God in His providence is working out His will in our lives. During the course of our lives there will be many difficult events which will be confusing to us at the time they occur because we will not understand God's purpose in them. Some of these could challenge our faith if we did not believe in His wisdom. In others, God's wisdom in accomplishing His purposes will be clear (though it may take time for that be revealed). Share one or two of these difficult events in which the wisdom of God in accomplishing His purposes was revealed to you. *The more significant events in my life: Being raised in California instead of Mississippi; A degree in Agricultural Biology, but becoming a Pastor; A broken engagement; Sons with auto-immune disorders; shoulder surgery; the death of Ray Marchetti; Jimmy not being a Christian*