



PROVERBS #2

Wisdom & Understanding

Last week Ps Eugene told the story of the guy who use to walk backwards & forwards over Niagara Falls in different ways in order to prove something to the world. He walked it forwards backwards, blindfolded, on stilts and finally pushing a wheelbarrow full of bricks. People were amazed but he wanted do even more spectacular so he asked for someone to sit in the wheelbarrow while he pushed them across. When he approached someone who indicated they believed he could do such a feat he immediately offered for them to get in the barrow for the ride to which they abruptly declined. And we learnt a valuable lesson which was what?

There is a big difference between belief & trust! Belief will get you to acknowledge something but not necessarily step into it only trust will do that! Believing is not enough you must develop trust to act. Listen, even the devil believes in God.

So when you put your trust in Jesus Christ & accept him as your Lord and Saviour holding nothing back – now you are actioning your belief but stepping out in faith to trust God!

Essentially through Trust you step into the barrow!

What I want to know is: if Trust enables you to step into the barrow, what is it that keeps you in the barrow instead of leaping back out?

Imagine what would happen if halfway across Niagara Falls the passenger started to panic trying to get out of the barrow. Balance would be lost balance & he could easily end up plummeting to his death in the icy waters below.

Once we get into the wheelbarrow with God we must stay in there no matter what is happening around us. To often we become frustrated, desperate or fearful and we panic and we leap out too soon, sabotaging our future. Essentially you commit spiritual suicide when we leap out of the barrow of God. No matter what happens we must stay put!

Eg Ps Wayne in Life Skills for Leaders says it this way – “Never make a permanent decision based on a passing emotion”. Next year sign up for this course as it will take your relationship with our heavenly Father to a whole new level.

Any ideas on what might help us to not jump out of the barrow as we cross Niagara Falls?

Fear: fear of death – why do we fear death? Is it not because we don't know what awaits us on the other side? What if God is real that you have ignored all your life & what if he is going to require an account from his creation, and what if your eternal security is tied up in the decision you made about Jesus Christ? (Fear of God as Judge - punishment)

But what if you are right with God, you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord & Saviour and you are ready to go. What else is likely to stop you from jumping out the barrow? Love for God – wanting to please father)

Eg Love for God, concern for others not wanting to cause them pain, not wanting miss my future or destiny.

Wisdom / Knowledge / Understanding

Wisdom will whisper in your ear, that which you are thinking of doing is going to ace you out of your future, loss of productivity & enjoyment, it may hurt a bunch of other people. So wisdom tells you do not leap out of the barrow but stay stay very very quiet!

Eg Last Sunday – 5 Easy Steps – Adultery (wisdom will tell you don't send that txt or email, don't go on that trip or lunch, don't watch that TV show. Wisdom will tell you when the grass looks greener on the other side “ it's time to water your own yard”

Listen Up: Trust will get you into the barrow but only wisdom, & understanding will keep you firmly fixed in barrow. Wisdom is the antidote to prevent spiritual suicide, so above all get wisdom.

Prov 4:7- 9 "Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honor you. "

Everybody can stay firmly fixed in the barrow if they understand this one simple truth.

The truth is... **Wisdom is supreme**; therefore get wisdom, though it cost all you have, get understanding.

Two Kinds of Wisdom – James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

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.

Most people in this world operate purely from the wisdom that comes from this world. Which is earthly, unspiritual & demonic and it usually is based in self-ambition. They can make for themselves a really nice lifestyle & investment portfolio with all the bells whistles & toys on this earth but it has no lasting benefit.

Eg Mt 16: 26 - what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and yet loose his soul. **Eg** The devil tempting Jesus with all the wealth & kingdoms of this world.

We want Wisdom but the right sort!

So what are some of the Benefits of Wisdom?

Prov 3: 13 –17 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding... for starters you are referred to as blessed.

V16 *Long Life* is in her right hand & in her left hand are *riches& honour*. **Eg** who doesn't want that – there are whole industries dedicated to bringing you long life. The health & wellness industry thrives on it every one is looking for the fountain of youth to stay on this earth. (Earth) **Eg** Surfing is the key,

V17 - *pleasant ways & paths of peace*,

Proverbs 8:12 – 19

V14 – Counsel & Sound Judgement with understanding & power,

V15 – by me Kings Reign & rulers make laws that are just,

V16 – by me princes govern & nobles rule,

V18 – with me are riches & honour, enduring wealth and prosperity

So what exactly is wisdom & where did it come from?

V 22 – 36

These verses indicate that wisdom was there at the beginning of time, before the beginning of this whole world. Wisdom was there to work along side God as he created this whole world. So what is wisdom?

1 Cor 1:24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Wisdom is an expression of the eternal spirit of God " Christ".

Remember after Jesus resurrection in *Act 2:36* Paul makes a declaration. That this Jesus the man whom you crucified has now become both Lord & Christ. Humanity & divinity merge in Jesus Christ. That's why when you receive Jesus Christ as Lord & Saviour God grants you his Holy Spirit. **The Eternal spirit of wisdom & understanding that should change us significantly, because our whole approach to life should change.** We should see things through the lens of God's eyes, and now we receive direction from a different pool of wisdom God's eternal spirit!

Let me show you what is happening when someone chooses to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord & Saviour.

Prov 3:18 She is the tree of life to those who embrace her, those who lay hold of her will be blessed... Where have we seen the tree of life before?

Gen 3: 6 – when the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining *wisdom*, she took some and ate it. Adam & Eve exchanged heavenly wisdom for earthly demonic wisdom. Our great grand parents changed where they would draw their life force & influence from. They chose the influence of this world rather than the influence of God.

Eg Genesis 3: – man is refused tree of life but through wisdom he gets opportunity to get it back.

It is really quite amazing! In Jesus we are actually welcomed to again partake of the tree of life but only if we hold to the end & stay in the barrow.

WHY DID GOD KICK THEM OUT? Answer is simple. The tree of life, represented Christ the eternal life giving spirit of God which Adam & Eve blew off for this world. If God would not have banned them from the tree Adam & Eve would have partaken in their sinful corrupt nature and they would have become eternally corrupt thus actually breaching heaven with evil. If God had allowed them to partake of the tree once sin entered them heaven itself would have become corrupt. That's why we were thrown out to live the life we had chosen for ourselves!

Wisdom is the process of returning to the tree of life through Jesus Christ! It's a return to the power & influence of Christ in our lives helping us to live with an eternal rather than temporal perspective.

Rev 2 – those who overcome are granted to eat from the tree of life. those who stay in the barrow & not get frustrated, desperate & panic.

So how do you get Wisdom?

Jesus said I am the way, the truth & the LIFE – nobody comes to the Father but through me. It is through accepting Jesus sacrifice on the cross that the sin issues is dealt with so we can step back into a relationship with a Holy God. Once we ask forgiveness the spirit of Christ can enter our mortal bodies & raise us up like him. The spirit of Christ moves us from darkness to light, from death to life. **Eg** God is Scanning,

Heavenly wisdom can only be found back in relationship with our creator & then once that connection is made we need to actively keep pursuing & seeking after God.

Wisdom is Crying Out saying – then *Prov 8:17* I love those that love me, and those that seek me find me!

You must cry out of for wisdom! Which means to yearn for God's involvement in your life. Look at:

Prov 8:35 – For Whoever finds me finds Life, and receives favour from the Lord.

Whoever finds who ? Wisdom, Christ, God himself.

The Eternal Spirit of Christ that raised Jesus of Nazareth from the dead. Whoever finds God himself will discover wisdom & understanding entering their soul. He or she will not be influenced by this world & their senses. They will not fall prey to the devil tricking them into stepping out of the barrow. They will stand with absolute confidence in their God no matter what life may bring along.

Practical things you can do.

1. Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord & Saviour
2. Develop a Love & Passion to prayerfully read God's Word & obey and implement what he reveals to you. (bible reading plan)

Commit to be in a Life Group or G3 Group – it is only in community that we become complete & finally discover all that God has created us to be,

Wisdom has many benefits;

Blessing
Long Life
Riches & Honour.
Counsel & Sound Judgment with understanding & power,
Kings Reign & rulers make laws that are just,
Princes govern & nobles rule,
Enduring wealth and prosperity.

But by far the greatest thing Wisdom will do for us is to stop us making permanent decisions on passing emotions. Wisdom & Understanding will allow us to stand firm & strong to overcome in all circumstances of Life. Wisdom will stop us from becoming restless, depressed, fearful about the future so in a state of panic jump out of the barrow.

Wisdom is the pathway that leads to the tree of life " Christ" the eternal spirit of God.

Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom, though it cost all you have get understanding. Get wisdom & you are getting God himself & he is sufficient reward for us.

On stage I have Three Barrows each covering people's journey through life. I wonder which one you are sitting in today?

God – through Trust you have allowed the spirit of God to translate from the devils barrow & into his & now through wisdom & understanding you are allowing God to take you on a journey to discover who he has created you to be in Christ the tree of life? – this journey concludes in heaven!

Satan – is referred to as the little (g) god of this world. He is the legal landlord of this earth because we handed it to him in the garden. And he is pushing his barrow hoping to distract & discourage you away from God! He wants to keep you real busy so that you just don't make time to sort out your eternal destiny. **Eg** Sunday is my only day off & I need to relax & have fun. I'll get around to that spiritual stuff later & then suddenly death comes calling and its game over he has snared you into his final destination hell.

You – pushing the barrow & somehow you think you have God & devil neatly sorted out in your barrow, so you're a good person. I got a little God in my barrow I should be good for heaven.

Eg I heard someone recently make a comment about this group of people & he said this. The scriptures say that God created man in his image! So we have decided to return the favour!

We have decided that we cant believe in a loving God sending good people to hell. But the trouble is we are responding from the wrong premise. We automatically assume everyone is going to heaven so because I am good God want throw me out. The problem is that we are all automatically destined to hell because we are born in sin & into the barrow and God is doing everything he can to save us. That is why Jesus came to give us the opportunity to get out of satans barrow.

Listen if you want heaven as you final eternal destination – you must choose that! And failure to make the choice will seal you destiny in hell. But when you get there don't blame God you had the opportunity to choose but you didn't take it.

YOUR Barrow – is made of a group of people who refuse to believe in devil or God so they make their own idea up. And it is made up of those who think they are Christ followers but choose to live life during the

week out of the devils barrow. I don't want to be seen associated with the devil but I also don't want to get too close to God so as to change & be transformed into the image of Christ- so they make up their own barrow to suit their lifestyle. The guys in satans barrow have a name they use for these so called Christ followers anyone like to guess what it is " HYPOCRITES'

WHY – do you think the devil is quite happy for you to push your own barrow? He just leaves you alone, he only bugs you when you want to get or stay in the this barrow. Why?

Because these two lead to exactly the same place! Hell – this one the devils taking you for a ride, & in this one your taking the devil for a ride but the destination is the same." HELL" a Christless Eternity.

Time is getting shorter & God is requiring those who profess to know him to live a life that is an example of someone empowered by the spirit of Christ.

Above get Wisdom – Trust will get you in the barrow but wisdom will keep you safe in the barrow until we reach our destination!