

Hebrews 6:11-12

Diligent in Wisdom

Last week we began to examine the idea that the full assurance which the writer of Hebrews desires that the churches in Judea should mature into, begins with knowledge, a righteous reservoir of truth. And that truth is something that God alone decides and vindicates. We must stand firmly upon the ground that God defines truth for all men, and that no man is free to define his own truth. This idea being found true, binds us to the proposition that truth is something to be found. Truth is not something to be fabricated, created or otherwise fashioned out of our own desires. Further, it also binds us to the fact that this truth having been found now has the right and the power to demand something of us. And what it demands is obedience unto the truth that we have understood. But it is at this point that the difficulty begins. The difference that matters is application. Do we apply what we KNOW? Knowing is one thing, doing, well that is quite another. Knowing and doing what truth demands is where we become wise, for knowledge rightly applied is Wisdom.

I. WISDOM AND REPENTANCE

a. First, let's start at the beginning:

Psalm 7:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day.

i. I'll say that again, God is angry with the wicked every day. This reality demands a response. As near as I can determine there are 3 possible responses to that truth being explained.

1. I don't believe
2. I don't care
3. I need help

ii. This last response is the only one that displays any sort of true wisdom. It deals with the information that the Bible gives and recognizes, at some level, the 5 essential facts that cannot be avoided.

1. God is judge, He will be the one that we will have to stand before. There will be no other options
2. God is just, He cannot be bought, manipulated or persuaded.
3. God is God, so He cannot be avoided, ignored or overcome
4. And God is angry - a fearsome and terrible idea
5. But worst of all, God is angry with me... for if we accept the basis and source of this as fact, then we must also accept the definition of wickedness which is given by the same Bible.

iii. God has told us His definition of man's morality and righteousness:

Romans 3.9-23

1. This leaves us guilty and damned.
2. It leaves us without of any manner of obedience that will actually save us

3. It leaves our toolbox of righteousness absolutely empty.
- b. But remember that while God is just, He is also merciful; and so God does not leave us there...
 - Romans 3.21-26**
 - i. There is glory here that stuns us into silence
 - ii. There is glory here that dazzles our eyes and blinds our imagination with its beauty
 - iii. God reveals His own righteousness in our salvation. And He does so independently of ANY work or merit on our part.
 - iv. God justifies us by the life, the death, the burial, and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c. God offers mercy that is consistent with the truth that would alone destroy us
 - i. Which is why Psalm 85 tells us this:

Psalm 85:8–10 (NKJV) ⁸ I will hear what God the Lord will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; But let them not turn back to folly. ⁹ Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

II. WISDOM, MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

a. God brings us into this right relationship by the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and it is through Him that we are made, not only into forgiven people, saints is the word the Bible uses, but further; we are made into children of God

i. God actually makes us children and heirs.

Romans 8:14–17 (NKJV) ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.”

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

- b. And being heirs and children also places demands upon us if we are to become wise.

Colossians 1.9-18

- c. God gives every spiritual blessing through Christ Jesus. This begins, ends and revolves around His death and resurrection which makes us acceptable in the sight of God. It is a contrary position to the world as a whole.

Colossians 2.1-10

- d. Wisdom and knowledge are the weapons of our warfare

2Corinthians 10.2-6

III. WISDOM AND HOLINESS

a. This warfare begins in our own hearts. We are called to see that the ways of the flesh are NOT pleasing to God in any manner. We are commanded to reject the ways of the world and its false wisdom, to obey God, and walk in holiness

Colossians 3.8-11

b. Wisdom is the gift of God that calls us to and prepares us in the holiness He requires

2Peter 1.2-11

c. But there is also counterfeit and false truth which must be guarded against.

2Peter 2.18-22

- i. False "truth" leads to false converts,
- ii. Which leads to godless and unholy lives

iii. Which ultimately leads to condemnation for all eternity.

d. Be careful then to be on your guard against these beautiful lies... and the only way to truly do this is to fall ever more in love with Jesus, to behold His beauty and to be caught up in rapt wonder at the glory of God revealed in Him.

2Corinthians 3.16-4.6

2 Peter 3:17–18 (NKJV)

17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

IV. WISDOM AND EVANGELISM

a. The message we preach is then the truth we live out. Both in word and deed.

- i. Our calling is to share the truth of the scripture and to urge the wisdom of a right response to that truth

Luke 1:76–79 (NKJV) ⁷⁶ “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, ⁷⁷ To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, ⁷⁸ Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; ⁷⁹ To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

- b. But rest assured, not all will see us as bringers of life, light and peace. Do not let this fact scare you; we dare not change the message, but rather let us share in the wisdom God has given which says that the same message will to some be life, and to some death...

2 Corinthians 2:14–17 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵ For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

- c. Wisdom teaches us that our calling is to share the whole counsel of God and let the Spirit do what the Spirit will do.
- d. This alone honors the Christ who died to make us His own.