

Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying Message Eight : The Multifarious Wisdom of God

I. Overview:

The book of Proverbs stresses wisdom that we receive from God through contacting God; the subject of Proverbs is living a godly life by God's wisdom. The central thought of Proverbs is that we should seek after wisdom so that we may live a godly life on earth that is acceptable to God. The wisdom of God revealed in New Testament is God's wisdom in a mystery; Christ is God's wisdom in a mystery that is deep and profound. As believers, we are in Christ, and Christ has become the wisdom from God to us. Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies. The New Jerusalem, as the ultimate consummation of the church, will be full of wisdom. God is the Architect and Builder of the city which has the foundations; God certainly has not designed and built a physical city. God constructs the New Jerusalem by dispensing Himself into our being to be the full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound how we can gain wisdom from the book of Proverbs.

This is very clear in the New Testament: those who receive wisdom are those who are filled with the Holy Spirit. First Corinthians 12:8 says that a word of wisdom is given to man through the Spirit; thus, we cannot receive the words in Proverbs by our natural concepts. Rather, we need to let the Spirit of God be poured upon us so that we may receive wisdom.

B. Describe the value of wisdom.

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom. She is more precious than corals, and nothing we desire compares with her. Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her, and happy are those who hold her fast. The real beauty is wisdom.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the difference between the wisdom and the knowledge.

In Colossians 2:3 the two are mentioned together. Wisdom is both higher and deeper than knowledge. Wisdom is seen in the initiation of something, and knowledge is seen in the practical application. If you have only knowledge and lack wisdom, you will not be able to initiate anything. God has initiated many things by His wisdom. When He comes in to apply what He has initiated, He displays His knowledge.

B. Expound I Corinthians 2:7, God's wisdom is in a mystery; it is a mysterious wisdom. God's wisdom is the wisdom which has been hidden and which God predestinated before the ages for our glory. God's wisdom is our destiny, and this destiny was determined by God beforehand. In eternity God determined our destiny. He predestined His wisdom to be for our glory.

Day 3 —

A. Explain the words of wisdom in Matthew 11:19.

Wisdom is Christ. Whatever Christ did was done by the wisdom of God, which is Himself. This wisdom was justified, vindicated, by His wise deeds. In Matthew 11:19 some authorities read "children" instead of "works". We are children of wisdom caring for the life of wisdom. Because we have the life of Christ, we have the life of wisdom.

B. Expound all the treasures of genuine wisdom and knowledge being hidden in Christ.

This is the spiritual wisdom and knowledge of the divine economy concerning Christ and the church. Wisdom is related to our spirit, and knowledge is related to our mind. Moreover, wisdom and knowledge refer to all the "stories" of God. All the stories of God are wisdom and knowledge. All the wisdom and knowledge pertaining to God's stories are hidden in Christ.

Day 4 —

A. Explain wisdom being related to our way of doing things.

Wisdom may be understood as the way to do things. If we have wisdom, we will know the proper way to do things, but if we are not wise, our way of doing things will be foolish. In order to have the best way to do things in our daily life, we must have wisdom. Christ as wisdom to the believers is actually the divine way.

B. State Christ having become wisdom to us from God in 1 Corinthians 1:30.

The expression to us from God indicates something present, practical, experiential, and ongoing in the way of transmission. For Christ to become wisdom to us from God indicates that there is the transmission of Christ as wisdom from God to us for our daily experience. Paul composed verse 30 in the particular way he did in order to point out to the believers that Christ should continually become wisdom to us from God.

Day 5 —

A. Expound the spiritual significance of the word in Ephesians 3:10.

These rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil. The passage here especially refers to the evil ones, Satan and his angels. According to the New Testament, Satan has his kingdom, his angels, and his sphere of rule. Satan's sphere of rule is in the air and on the earth. The book of Daniel indicates that all nations on earth are under the rule of Satan in the air.

B. Testify for a person full of wisdom, the more difficulties he has, the more wisdom he will express.

God also needs trouble; He even needs an adversary, Satan. Without Satan and without the tree of knowledge, God's wisdom cannot be fully manifested. Satan and the tree of knowledge have created many opportunities for God's wisdom to be manifested in a multifarious way, that is, in various ways and aspects and from many angles.

Day 6 —

A. Explain the New Jerusalem being designed and constructed by God.

Speaking of Abraham, Hebrews 11:10 says, "He eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God." The Greek word for architect in this verse can also be translated either "builder" or "artificer." This indicates that God is a skillful designer and a top craftsman. As such an Architect and Builder, God certainly has not designed and built a physical city. This city will display His wisdom for eternity.

B. Why to say that the New Jerusalem is a physical city depreciates God's wisdom?

If we realize that the New Jerusalem is a sign which signifies spiritual and divine things, we shall begin to see the wisdom of God in this city. God is a wise Designer and Craftsman who designs such a city to be a full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom. Furthermore, in His wisdom God constructs the New Jerusalem by dispensing Himself into our being.

III. Conclusion:

In God's care for Job, there were two meetings in the heaven, and Satan was among them. Satan rebelled due to his pride, condemned and judged by God, but not executed yet. God also uses Satan to deal with negative things to fulfill God's economy. Ephesians 3:10, "In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wis of God might be made known through the church". The church is God's masterpiece, through which God's wisdom is so marvelously displayed. In the eyes of God, the most wonderful thing in the universe is the church, for through the church God's multifarious wisdom is made known to Satan and his angels. God also needs trouble; He even needs an adversary, Satan. In the same principle, our failures, mistakes, defeats, and wrongdoings have also given God opportunities to display His wisdom.