

#8: The Multifarious Wisdom of God **OLSummary**:3/22-28

I. The book of Proverbs stresses wisdom that we receive from God through contacting God: **A.** The subject of Proverbs is living a godly life by God's wisdom. **B.** 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. **C.** Wisdom comes from God: "Jehovah gives wisdom; / From His mouth come knowledge and understanding" (2:6). **D.** Wisdom is more valuable and better than gold, silver, and corals, and is more desirable than anything else. **E.** In certain portions of Proverbs the wisdom of God is personified. /This personification of God's wisdom is a reference to the second of the Divine Trinity, who became wisdom from God to all the New Testament believers. /"Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth" (3:19). /This One by whom Jehovah founded the earth and established the heavens is Christ, who is the wisdom of God. /God's creation of all things is through Christ, who is wisdom and God's delight.

II. Romans 11:33a speaks of God's wisdom, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!": **A.** It is important to see the difference between wisdom and knowledge. /Wisdom is for planning and purposing. /Wisdom is seen in the initiation of something, as indicated by Romans 11:36: "Out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things." /God is the unique initiator: "One God, the Father, out from whom are all things." (1 Cor. 8:6) /When God comes in to apply what He has initiated, He display His knowledge. **B.** The wisdom of God is "God's wisdom in a mystery, the wisdom which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages for our glory." (2:7) /As God's center and as our portion for our enjoyment, Christ is God's wisdom in a mystery that is deep and profound. **C.** "To the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen" (Rom. 16:27) /In the local churches throughout the earth, we all give glory to the only wise God. /The wise God has given Jesus Christ to us according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages, who also is the One who has saved us, regenerated us, and though His divine dispensing is continually renewing and transforming us, and who will eventually glorify us and conform us to the image of God's firstborn Son, bringing us into glory.↓

III. Christ is the wisdom of God: **A.** In the New Testament the personified wisdom of God is Christ as its reality. /The wisdom of Christ's deity was revealed in proportion to the measure of His bodily growth. /Whatever Christ did was done by the wisdom of God, which is Christ Himself. /This wisdom was justified, vindicated, by His wise works, His wise deeds. /In Luke 7:35 the Lord Jesus said, "Wisdom is justified by all her children". /Christ's work is to produce us as the children of wisdom caring for the life of wisdom. **B.** In Christ "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden" (Col. 2:3) /God is the unique source of wisdom and knowledge. /We need to trace wisdom and knowledge to their true

source in God. /All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, who is the mystery of God. /The fact that wisdom and knowledge are embodied in Christ is proved by His spoken words, especially those recorded in the Gospels of Matthew and John. /The Lord's words recorded in these two books contain the highest philosophy. /Since wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Christ as a treasure, we cannot have wisdom and knowledge unless we have Christ. /If we exercise our being to contact the Lord, Christ as the life-giving Spirit will saturate our spirit and our mind, and we will have in our experience the wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ.

IV. As believers, we are in Christ, and Christ has become the wisdom from God to us: **A.** What we believers, as the new creation, are and have is of God, not of ourselves. **B.** As our wisdom, Christ is all-inclusive, becoming wisdom to us from God in righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. /By Christ as our righteousness, we have been justified by God so that we might be reborn in our spirit to receive the divine life. /By Christ as our sanctification, we are being sanctified in our soul, that is, transformed in our mind, emotion, and will with His divine life. /Christ as our redemption is for the redemption of our body, by which we will be transfigured in our body with His divine life to have His glorious likeness. **C.** To us from God in 1 Cor. 1:30 refers to something present, practical, and experiential in the way of transmission. /If we remain with the Lord to receive His dispensing, He will be transmitted into us as the wisdom to handle various problems and matters.↓

V. Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies: **A.** The rulers and authorities are the angelic rulers and authorities, both good and evil. **B.** Ephesians 3:10 especially refers to the evil ones—Satan and his angels. /Through the church God will make His wisdom known not mainly to human beings but to those rebellious angels who are the followers of God's enemy. **C.** Even the rebellion of Satan is within the realm of God's wisdom. **D.** When God's chosen and redeemed people partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, these riches constitute them the church, through which God's multifarious wisdom is made known to the angelic rulers and authorities in the heavenlies. /The day is coming when, through the church, Satan and his angels will be put to shame. /They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to manifest His wisdom.

VI. The New Jerusalem, as the ultimate consummation of the church, will be full of wisdom: **A.** The New Jerusalem is designed and constructed by God, the Architect and Builder of "the city which has the foundations". /To say that the New Jerusalem is a physical city depreciates God's wisdom and belittles Him as the eternal, wise Architect. **B.** If we realize that the New Jerusalem is a sign that signifies spiritual and divine things, we will begin to see the wisdom of God in this city. **C.** God is a wise Architect and Builder who designs and builds such a city to be the full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom.

CP1: If we pursue Christ and open mind to Christ, we will have Christ as wisdom of God and make a wise choice

OL1: The book of Proverbs stresses wisdom that we receive from God through contacting God. **OL2:** Wisdom comes from God. The wisdom of God is personified. Christ Himself is the wisdom of God. Prov. 9:10 The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 3:15 She (wisdom) is more precious than corals, and nothing you desire compares with her. 3:19 Jehovah by wisdom founded the earth; He established the heavens by understanding. Wisdom was set up from eternity, from the beginning, before the earth was. When there were no depths, wisdom was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, wisdom was brought forth; when He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, wisdom was there; when He inscribed a circle upon the surface of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the fountains of the deep became strong, when He set for the sea its boundary, that the waters should not transgress His commandment, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; then wisdom was by Him, as a master workman. Wisdom was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His habitable earth; and wisdom's delight was in the sons of men. Again, this personified wisdom refers to Christ.

Wisdom loves those who love her, and those who seek wisdom diligently will find her. Riches and honor are with wisdom, enduring wealth and righteousness. Wisdom's fruit is better than gold, even fine gold; and her yield than choice silver. Wisdom walks in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of justice, that wisdom may cause those who love her to inherit substance and that she may fill their treasuries. Once again, this personified wisdom signifies Christ. If we have Christ as wisdom, we have everything, including spiritual things and material things.

OL3: Wisdom is for planning and purposing. **OL4:** The wise God has given Jesus Christ to us according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages, who also is the One who has saved us, regenerated us, and through His divine dispensing is continually renewing and transforming us. Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and untraceable His ways! 36 Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. Wisdom is different from cleverness and deeper than cleverness. It is possible to be clever without being wise. For example, a criminal may be very clever, but he is altogether lacking in wisdom.

When we live in the oneness of the Body of Christ and express this Body in the various local churches, the result will be: (1) God's crushing of Satan under our feet, (2) our enjoying the grace of Christ and the peace of God, and (3) the giving of glory to the only wise God. This is the peak of our church life. No matter how many saints or local

churches there are on earth, in the various places we all give glory to the only wise God.

Application: Newly saved, Youth and College Students

By the wisdom of God, the heavens were stretched and the foundations of the earth were laid. Zechariah 12:1 thus declares Jehovah, who stretches forth the heavens and lays the foundations of the earth and forms the spirit of man within him, God in His wisdom, planned the creation and created the heavens, the earth and all things. And especially the spirit was formed in man. This is for man to exercise his spirit to pray, to seek and find wisdom. Christ is the wisdom of God, if you open your mind to Christ and pursue Him, Christ spreads out in your mind, and you can have wisdom.

Testimony of a sister taking the college entrance exam: I asked many brothers and sisters to pray for my entrance exam. They formed a LINE group for me and prayed with me together. While some classmates of the same cram school cried due to the pressure of the exam, I was in a blessed environment that when I had problems, I could right away talk to the saints, and they would pray for me. For a long time I had been aspiring to study at the Faculty of Engineering at Kobe University, but I got anxious because the results of my mock exam were always on the borderline of passing.

After the center exam, I got a decent grade but was somehow burned out. I lost my concentration, did not want to go to cram school anymore, and could only study for a few hours at home. Mother became very impatient seeing me like that. When I saw mother's impatience, it made me even more frustrated, I felt into a vicious cycle and it was even harder for me to study. However, Sister Okada (a graduate of Osaka University) came to my house and encouraged me. She said to me, "What about the Faculty of Maritime Science?" Even though someone recommended me before, I never once considered the Faculty of Maritime Science, but strangely enough, I was able to accept it with ease. When I prayed, there was peace in my heart. After that I researched the Faculty of Maritime Science and thought that this faculty was right for me. I didn't have a particular field of interest, so I thought that the Faculty of Maritime Science should be a good fit for me, as it allows me to learn a wide variety of fields. Also, many brothers and sisters, and my family prayed for me. Curiously, more and more I was able to recover my motivation. Finally, I submitted my application to the Faculty of Maritime Science of Kobe University and was able to pass. Praise the Lord! Phil. 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace.

The important point to this testimony is the supply of the Body through the prayers and fellowship of the saints and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. These supplies spread in the mind and became a sense of peace, when the sister opened her mind to the spirit. The sister was led by the Lord and was able to make a wise choice. **Prayer:** Lord, You are the wisdom of God, and if I open my mind to Christ and pursue Him, He will spread out in my mind and I will have Christ as my wisdom. The important thing for me is to open to the saints and to the Lord. Open to the supply and guidance of the Body, set my mind on the spirit and pray. Guide me in life and in peace. Let me have Christ as my wisdom, deliver me from Satan's confusion, and bless me.

CP2: If you train yourself to touch the Lord, you can experience Christ as wisdom and find the best way and be blessed

OL1: Christ is the wisdom of God. Prov. 8:12 I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.

Christ has been made wisdom to us from God. Wisdom is for planning and purposing, whereas power is for carrying out and accomplishing what is planned and purposed. In God's salvation Christ crucified is both God's power and His wisdom. We need Christ as both power and wisdom.

Paul told the Colossian believers that all the treasures of genuine wisdom and knowledge are 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 this Christ who is the mystery of God. Therefore, Colossians 2:6-7 indicates that we who have received Christ Jesus the Lord should walk in Him and be rooted and built up in Him. **OL2:** Since wisdom and knowledge are stored up in Christ as a treasure, we cannot have wisdom and knowledge unless we have Christ. If we exercise our being to contact the Lord, Christ as the life-giving Spirit will saturate our spirit and our mind, and we will have in our experience the wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in Christ. Col. 2:2-3 ...The mystery of God, Christ, in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden. **OL3:** As our wisdom, Christ is all-inclusive, becoming wisdom to us from God in righteousness (past, spirit was regenerated), sanctification (present, soul is being transformed), and redemption (future, body will be glorified). 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

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. Hence, wisdom in 1 Corinthians 1:30 is equal to the way in John 14:6, a verse in which the Lord Jesus says, "I am the way." God's way is His wisdom. If we enjoy Christ and participate in Him, we will have Him as our wisdom, as our way. This wisdom comes from our enjoyment of Christ. Day by day and hour by hour we should live in the spirit and exercise the spirit to call on the name of the Lord Jesus. If we do this, we will enjoy Christ and have Him as our wisdom, that is, our way of doing things.

Application to business person/graduate students

Testimony concerning one sister: I used to test young employees in my department between the ages of 27 and 32 for their presentation skills, including their English ability. I asked them to prepare PowerPoint presentations in English and Japanese and to give a 7-minute presentation. The scoring was done by the seven department heads, and I, as the general manager, did not participate in the scoring in

order to maintain fairness. As a result, those who graduated from the master's programs of Kyoto University and Osaka University scored between 50 and 60. It was too low, so I let them dog it up and give them a score in the 60 range. Our sister A, who graduated from Kobe University, and employee B, who graduated from a graduate school in the UK with an international TOEIC ranking of about 10th, got high scores (this person's TOEIC score was perfect). However, one of the department heads remarked that the overall score between these two was A (sister) outperforming B by at least five points, if not more. The other department heads also praised the sister's communication skill and agreed with the first head's comment. For example, they praised the sister for inserting funny stories to grab the audience's attention, making sure that the presentation was not too technical that the audience could not understand, and being flexible according to the audience's response. At last, our sister scored 93 points and the other 87 points. The head of the department (a veterinarian from the University of Tokyo, PhD) who was the first to speak was surprised, "Where on earth did this person get such high communication skill? He was surprised. I praised the Lord in my heart as I listened to their discussion and said, "Our sister has learned this wonderful skill of communication in our weekly prophecy and service in the church life". 1 Cor. 1:24 But to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. FN "the power of God and the wisdom of God": Wisdom is for planning, purposing; power is for carrying out, accomplishing, what is planned and purposed. In God's economy Christ is both. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Cor. 14:3 But he who prophesies speaks building up and encouragement and consolation to men. 4 He who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but he who prophesies builds up the church. In order to develop communication skills, you need wisdom. This is because it is speaking to men. To speak in tongues is to speak in a language that the listeners cannot understand. Speaking without regard to the audience is in the principle of speaking in tongues, speaking to yourself, and cannot improve your communication skill. In order to speak to people, you need to understand who your audience is and what their level of understanding or interest is. While speaking, it is also important to use your wisdom and modify on the spot based on the reaction of the audience. In addition, you need to correct the incorrect mood of the audience by speaking to them. You can do these things by practicing one Spirit with the Lord. Prayer: Lord Jesus, if I live in the spirit and exercise the spirit to call on the name of the Lord Jesus, I will have Christ as the power of God and the wisdom of God, and I can use it in my practical living. I thank the Lord that the communication skills necessary for work are also trained in the church life. I train myself to have interest in people in the church life and to speak to people by observing their condition and needs. I pursue prophecy for the building of the church and supply Christ to the people.

CP3: God manifests the multifarious wisdom through the church. Believers are transformed under Lord's training for this

OL1: Through the church the multifarious wisdom of God will be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenlies. When God's chosen and redeemed people partake of and enjoy the riches of Christ, these riches constitute them the church. **OL2:** The day is coming when, through the church, Satan and his angels will be put to shame. They will realize that everything they have done has given God the opportunity to manifest His wisdom. **Eph. 3:10** In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church. The church is composed of those who once were ruined, corrupted, and damaged. Before we were saved, we were vipers, poisonous serpents. Furthermore, we were dead in trespasses and sins. Moreover, we were scattered and divided, utterly unable to be one. Thus, all the members of the church were in a hopeless situation. Nevertheless, God in His wisdom is able to make us the church. Now we are not only redeemed, saved, cleansed, freed, liberated, and regenerated—we are also united. We are one with God and with one another. Therefore, we are the church. The church is God's greatest boast. Although you may not care that much for the church, God cares very much for the church. Sometimes God may say, "Look, Satan, I have taken the very people whom you have ruined and I have made them into the church. Do you have the wisdom to do such a thing? You do not have this wisdom, but I have it." The church through which God's wisdom is so marvelously displayed is God's masterpiece. 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. The day is coming when Satan and his angels will be put to shame. ...In the same principle, our failures, mistakes, defeats, and wrongdoings have also given God opportunities to display His wisdom. **OL3:** If we realize that the New Jerusalem is a sign that signifies spiritual and divine things, we will begin to see the wisdom of God in this city. **OL4:** God is a wise Architect and Builder who designs and builds such a city to be the full manifestation of His multifarious wisdom. **Heb. 11:10** For he eagerly waited for the city which has the foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God. To say that the New Jerusalem is a physical city depreciates God's wisdom and belittles Him as the eternal, wise Architect. 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.

Application to Business person and Serving ones
Brother's Testimony: I testify that I have experienced the arrangements in God's wisdom in changing jobs or staying in a company by following the Lord and been blessed. **Rev. 17:14** These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them. The Lord arranges all environments in wisdom and

authority to make all things work together for the good to those who love Him. The Lord is also the Lord of the presidents. After I graduated from the master's program, I served full-time for 5 years and started looking for a job just before I turned 30.

After graduating from graduate school, I was told that my resume was "dirty" because I had been serving in the church for 5 years, so at first, I couldn't find a job at all. I was disappointed and at my wits end. But eventually, with the Lord's guidance, I was able to find a job that only housewives and retired pharmacists would do. It was a humiliating place for a young pharmacist, but I was still able to get a job, so I was happy to go to the company. The company was a pharmaceutical wholesaler and the job was at the bottom of the pharmaceutical industry. However, I was able to enter the pharmaceutical industry even at the bottom, so a year and a half later I moved to a small pharmaceutical company in Kobe. Then, in April 1992, we started a church life with three people in Kobe. I was treated like an executive at this company, so I came to Kobe triumphantly. However, when I entered the workplace, I found that it was filled with "envy," and because of that envy, I also faced severe bullying. I was suffering the bullying at work, which made me very anxious. After that, I was able to change my job to one of the world's largest consumer goods manufacturers, which was located in Rokko Island at that time. The company was a good company, but it made a clear distinction between elite employees who graduated from universities such as Kyoto University and those who did not. I also noticed that many of the elite employees relied too much on their academic background and were not very good at their works.

During the 5 years and 3 months since I got a job at the first company, I had a lot of painful experiences in the despised bottom environment, but I learned many things that one cannot learn very often because I experienced the cross and endured it. For example, ① Consideration for those below you to organize the company from top to bottom by working at the bottom. ② A realization of how fallen people react to things and behave in a corrupted organization. ③ Certain practices and regulations that were once considered good for the company are no longer appropriate for the current ages. ④ That manager needs to come up with a clear policy. ⑤ The manager fail if they don't utilize women. ⑥ It is easy for people to get carried away and fall into lust when they get ahead. These learnings had a lot in common with the Bible studies and the practice of God's ordained way in the church life, and it was effective to learn these together. Later, because of these learnings, I became a manager at the age of 35 and a business owner at the age of 43, and was able to achieve excellent results. Praise the Lord! Only God can arrange these 10 years of training: 5 years of full-time service and about 5 years as a corporate employee in a despised, bottom environment. After these decades, I could say that compared to others who had a good education and spent 10 years in a good company, my 5 years of service in the church were not a waste, but a far better gain. **Prayer:** Oh Lord Jesus, being trained in the church life is like attending a business school, where I can practically learn a lot in relationships and in doing business. The most important thing to learn about these things is to trust in God's arrangement and to exercise the spirit, thanking the Lord. Let me experience Christ as my wisdom and strength in the workplace to carry out God's economy.