

# Two Wisdoms

James 3:13-18

Joel Pickett

Media Reference Number GS760

Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## Introduction to Study

You'll notice the title indicates that there are two wisdoms. We will come to realize rather quickly that one of these two supposed wisdoms is an imposter. It's a kind of pseudo-wisdom of the world that we will find to be no wisdom at all.

**We find the concept of wisdom throughout the Scriptures.** It was by His wisdom that God created all things, it was the spirit of wisdom that God gave to those who crafted the tabernacle, He gave wisdom to Moses and Joshua to lead the people, it was wisdom that Solomon asked for rather than riches and then wisdom that Solomon wrote about in Proverbs. It was wisdom that God gave to Daniel and his friends in Babylon. It was wisdom that Jesus increased in as He grew from a boy, wisdom was in the list of requirements to find seven men to help in Acts 6, and it is the very wisdom of God that He has used to confound the so-called wisdom of this world. ***BUT WHAT IS IT?***

### **It's been said before that...**

"Wisdom includes the ability to use the best means at the best time to accomplish the best ends."

The best way, the best timing, the best conclusion.

### **Wisdom has been referred to as the fitting application and proper use of knowledge.**

*Knowledge understands the light has turned red; wisdom applies the brakes. Knowledge sees the quicksand; wisdom walks around it. Knowledge memorizes the Ten Commandments; wisdom obeys them. Knowledge learns of God; wisdom loves Him.*

### **C. H. Spurgeon**

Wisdom is the right of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.

**Some** of the most knowledgeable become the biggest fools when the wisdom of God isn't adhered to.

### **2 Timothy 3:7**

<sup>7</sup> always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

*You can have knowledge without wisdom, but you cannot have wisdom without knowledge.*

## Context of Passage

**Within our text today**, wisdom is referred to **four distinct times**. We will find that the author which is of course James, poses a question about who is truly wise and will then go on to describe these two wisdoms in detail.

**The book of James is like a firehose.** It is one of the most jam-packed letters in the New Testament. I would love to meet James in person because the guy just seems like a stud. He says it how it is, in the most punch in the face, loving kind of way. These 5 chapters are truly epic. They are known to be some of the most **PRACTICAL** chapters in the New Testament because James doesn't hold back.

**The whole theme of the book revolves around** actually doing Christianity and not playing church. In the previous chapter, James makes some **BOLD** statements regarding true faith. He lays it out that faith without works is dead faith because faith always works. Not that we are saved by works but that works show the very proof of our faith.

**And then in chapter 3,** James goes for the jugular by getting into the topic of the untamable tongue. He talks about the unruliness and power of one of the smallest members of our body.

**Right before where we pick it up today,** James addresses the conundrum of how it is that out of the same mouth can proceed blessing and cursing.

It is at this **CHALLENGE** that James asks a **VERY** important question as he gets into the topic of what true wisdom really is. *(let's go ahead and stand for the reading of God's word)*

### **James 3:13-18**

<sup>13</sup> Who *is* wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct *that* his works *are done* in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking *exist*, confusion and every evil thing *are* there. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

### **The Question Posed (verse 13)**

<sup>13</sup> *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*

**The question that James poses here is regarding** those who not only possess wisdom but also understanding. *According to James, these two things go hand in hand.*

**Wise:** "sophos" this is the typical Greek word that is used to describe one who possesses wisdom in the New Testament, it is one who has discretion and discernment of what to do *(in which I described in our introduction)*

**Understanding:** skillful, intelligent, learned, this word has the idea of being capable behind it, as if experienced, one having the knowledge of an expert

**It's clear that this question is a rhetorical one.** James isn't looking for an answer because he answers it right away. James is seeking to bring his audience to the realization that wisdom and understanding is not something to simply be claimed but rather displayed in one's life by good works and meekness.

**Wisdom will show not by just what you say but by what you do and how you live.** Saying you have wisdom doesn't give you wisdom.

**Hosea poses a similar question in....**

**Hosea 14:9**

<sup>9</sup> Who *is* wise? Let him understand these things. *Who is prudent?* Let him know them. For the ways of the Lord *are* right; The righteous walk in them, But transgressors stumble in them.

*It's not only to know but to then walk in the ways of the Lord that are right.*

**Now in response to his own question, James gives us the action and attitude of true wisdom.**

**Action of Wisdom (v.13b)**

*Let him show by good conduct that his works are done*

**Let him show:** to show by way of proving, to demonstrate

*This is very fitting within the theme of the book of James.*

**In the previous chapter, James said this...**

**James 2:18**

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Like faith, this is also true of wisdom. To say you have wisdom is empty, but to show in your life by your good conduct, now this is wisdom.

Which goes right in line with what Jesus said, "*By their fruits you know them.*"

**The Bible Knowledge Commentary puts it like this...**

Wisdom is not measured by degrees but by deeds. It is not a matter of acquiring truth in lectures but of applying truth to life.

**Attitude of Wisdom (v.13c)**

*in the meekness of wisdom.*

Now this action of wisdom is not just generic good works, but they will also be demonstrated "in the meekness of wisdom." ***This is the attitude that accompanies the action.***

**Meekness:** gentleness, humility, to be even-tempered

**This is not** weakness, it isn't timidity, or shyness, it isn't niceness. This isn't a personality thing where some people have it and others don't. *It is a supernatural attribute that is given alongside the life that displays true wisdom.*

***It has been said before*** that meekness is the right use of power and wisdom is the right use of knowledge. *They go together.*

**Meekness is 8<sup>th</sup> on the list in Galatians 5** referring to the fruit of the Spirit where it is often translated as gentleness.

**The one who is wise doesn't see himself in superiority.** This true wisdom does not only show itself in action but with an attitude of humility.

#### **Romans 12:16**

<sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

*But remember, this meekness does not mean weakness but power under control. Jesus is the perfect picture of what this meekness looks like and how it is to be lived out.*

#### **Matthew 11:29**

<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

**Jesus quite literally had all power** yet chose to empty Himself and make Himself of no reputation. Rather than coming to be served, He came to serve. *There was something about Jesus that even children desired to come and be with Him.*

**It would be how a trained Navy Seal** who had the power and know how to take anyone out yet is able to take in his arms his little baby and could treat that baby with tenderness and care. Meekness, power under control.

**Someone may know a lot** and may display all kinds of things he has learned and other impressive qualities, but we must realize that meekness is the main stay of true wisdom.

*Twofold evidence of wisdom = will show itself in good works and manifest itself in meekness*

**However, James must clarify to what kind of wisdom he is referring to as there are two kinds.** Wisdom from below & wisdom from above. *Let's first look together at this wisdom from below.*

#### **The "Wisdom" From Below (verses 14-16)**

<sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

**As James now gets into what this false wisdom is,** he will share with us its origin (*where it comes from*), its characteristics (*how it acts*), and also its result (*what it produces*). The where, how, & what of the wisdom from below.

#### **The Origin (verse 15)**

<sup>15</sup> This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

**James describes it as the wisdom** that does not descend from above which indicates to us that it ascends from below. It doesn't come down from heaven but rises from hell.

*It is man-made wisdom, originating from the evil one. It is false wisdom, which is really no wisdom at all, it is actually the antithesis of the true heavenly God given wisdom. It is a counterfeit.*

**Now you'll notice in verse 15 a threefold description of the origin of this so called "wisdom."**

## **1) Earthly**

*of the earth, in sharp distinction of being from heaven, often with a negative connotation, worldly, to be earthbound. Adam Clarke – “having this life only in view”*

This false wisdom acts with no thought of eternity, no thought of heaven. No thought of anything after death on this earth. *This is that which John Bunyan wrote about in Pilgrims Progress of the character that he described as Mr. Worldly Wiseman who sought to get Christian off of the path that Evangelist helped put him on.*

## **2) Sensual**

*unspiritual, natural, pertaining to human nature which has been inherently sinful since the fall*

*And no this is not a good thing, you might like to see “all natural” on your groceries but you won’t want it on your wisdom.*

This wisdom is completely separate from that which is spiritual. This “wisdom” not only refuses to believe in the spiritual but can’t even comprehend it if it wanted to.

### **1 Corinthians 2:14**

<sup>14</sup> But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

## **3) Demonic**

*of the devil, this would describe not only the Devil himself but his evil host alongside*

**And to no surprise**, this wisdom has the devils’ fingerprints all over it. He would be its very designer. We see again and again that Satan is a copycat, there is nothing original about him.

**He always takes what God creates and perverts it** with the promise of greater “freedom” only to take those who follow into greater captivity. He takes what God designed as marriage and perverts it, but really, it’s just a cheap knock off. He is anything but original. He will even one day seek to rip off the concept of the Messiah and come up with his own christ who will be the antichrist.

**It’s like when you go to the swap meet**, you always have to be careful. At first that Gucci bag looks like a great deal until you realize it’s not Gucci but Goucci or the Rolex watch that looks legit but then you look again closely and it doesn’t say Rolex but Rolax. *This wisdom is a cheap knock off.*

**This counterfeit wisdom is what Satan uses to blind the minds of the unbeliever.**

### **2 Corinthians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**Some see a connection** with this threefold description of this false wisdom’s origin with the three enemies that every man faces: the world, the flesh, and the devil. *This wisdom seems to be the sum total of all that works against mankind.*

### **The Characteristics (verse 14)**

<sup>14</sup> *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.*

**What are the qualities of this wisdom?** What is it like and how does it act? James here starts out with a *dangerous duo*.

## **1) Bitter Envy**

**Bitter:** to be harsh, sharp (also used back in **James 3:11** when referring to bitter spring)

**Envy:** a greedy or prideful longing for something that belongs to another, resentment

To have bitter envy is to so long for something for yourself that it creates in you an attitude of resentfulness and hostility toward others.

## **2) Self-seeking**

*to go after what you want regardless of what you have to do, implication rivalry, to stop at nothing to gain what you want*

To have **self-seeking** is to do your own thing and do it your own way.

### **Romans 2:8**

<sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

Notice that disobedience to the truth goes hand in hand with this self-seeking.

**And look there in verse 14, that both of these characteristics start in the heart.** This is always the starting point. Out of the abundance of one's heart the mouth speaks and one's life is lived.

### **Matthew 15:19**

<sup>19</sup> For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

*The heart of the problem is always the problem of the heart.*

**James indicates here that this kind of heart causes** pride and this way of thinking gets us to lie against what we know is true. This is where this self-seeking will lead → PRIDE

**Boast:** to exalt yourself against or in the face of another, to rejoice over yourself

**To take pride in** – sound familiar? It is to boast and lie AGAINST what is true!

**At the end of the day**, truth is of really no concern to this type of wisdom. You could show the facts, show the stats but the truth won't overcome their own self-seeking to the point where they are willingly self-deceived.

### **This false wisdom would say.....**

*“Seek first the kingdom of self and all these things shall be added to you.”*

*“If you seek to find your life you will find it and if you seek to lose your life you will lose it.”*

*“Only one life twill soon be past only what's done for self will last.”*

### **AND YET THE RESULT OF THIS IS ABOSLUTELY DISASTROUS**

*- this is the wisdom that rules over our crooked and perverse generation, if you look around, these are the characteristics of the wisdom of our world today*

## **The Result (verse 16)**

<sup>16</sup> For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

### **1) Confusion**

*upheaval, disturbance and disorder, rebellion, insurrection, instability*  
“it’s a disorder that comes from instability.”

**Wherever there is this confusion**, you can know that this false “wisdom” has been at work. Why?

#### **1 Corinthians 14:33**

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.

This wisdom is not from God.

**This same word is found in Luke 21** when Jesus is describing the atmosphere of the end times...

#### **Luke 21:9**

<sup>9</sup> But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end *will not come* immediately.”

***This confusion then sets the stage for every evil work.***

### **2) Every Evil Thing**

**Evil:** *immoral*    **Thing:** *work, event, business, matter*

There is **NO END** to the evil that comes from embracing this type of wisdom.

**God saw this to be true when the “wise men of the world”** got together to build a tower.

#### **Genesis 11:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, “Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

God foresaw the great evil that would come from this gathering and so He did something about it.  
***And we can be assured that one day God will bring an end to the confusion and evil in this world.***

**This is our default wisdom in our fallen state.** This wisdom does not have to be taught as it is something every man inherits from sin.

#### **Proverbs 14:12**

<sup>12</sup> There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

## **The Wisdom From Above (verses 17-18)**

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**James employs here a helpful method of learning** which is to compare and contrast. We have now seen where this false wisdom comes from, what it’s like, and what it ultimately results in. Now we will see the complete opposite when it comes to what true wisdom is.

## **The Origin (verse 17a)**

*17 But the wisdom that is from above*

*This is heavenly wisdom, and its origin is from God who is the giver of true wisdom. He is the source.*

**God alone is above**, and this wisdom is His.

**Proverbs 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding;

**This wisdom is not shared by any other.** The Scriptures tell us that God **alone** is wise.

**1 Timothy 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Jude 25**

To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, *Be* glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

**In fact, Paul tells us that it was Jesus who became for us this very wisdom of God.**

**1 Corinthians 1:30**

<sup>30</sup> But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

*You see, **Jesus is the epitome of wisdom.** He does not just possess it but is part of His very nature.*

**The Characteristics** *(verse 17b)*

*is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

**We find here 7 different characteristics.** You'll notice some similarities between the characteristics of wisdom and the characteristics of love that are found in 1 Corinthians 13.

*All 7 of these were perfectly displayed in the earthly life of Jesus. If we want to know what these look like, we look to Him.*

**Many scholars see a skillful and artistic arrangement of this list in the original language.** In Greek, James uses words that sound the same thus creating a certain alliteration. Apparently when reading in Greek there is a clear rhythm to it. *All that to say is that these were not random nice words thrown together but they were hand-picked by the Spirit to describe the qualities of Godly wisdom.*

**1) Pure**

*"is first pure," Faultless and innocent*

**Pure was intentionally put first**, notice the particular order and progression here. First pure, then peaceable. There is a flow to this.

***Purity is not just one characteristic on this list but is the key to them all.***

**A.R. Fausett,**

*Purity or sanctity* is put first because it has respect both to God and to ourselves; the six that follow regard our fellow men. Our first concern is to have in ourselves sanctity; our second, to be at peace with men.

*Wisdom will never walk without its partner of purity.*

**When Jesus spoke of what the people thought about Him, He said these powerful words...**

**Matthew 11:19**

<sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by her children."

They accused Jesus of being a sinner, yet His life didn't show the fruit of that lifestyle and Jesus responds with a great line: "*wisdom is justified by her children*"

**The children of this heavenly wisdom is first pure.** Wisdom's children are pure. *This is the first and surest sign of wisdom.*

**2) Peaceable**

*then peaceable, Freedom from worry, describes a state of wholeness*

**We know that Jesus called those blessed who sought to be peacemakers,** that they would then be called the sons of God. It would be an identifying mark that they are a child of God.

**Romans 12:18**

<sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

And as we know this is not always possible, *but this is the pursuit of the one who has wisdom.*

**Hebrews 12:14**

<sup>14</sup> Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

*It is by these first two (purity & peace) that not only we will see the Lord but others through us will see Him as well.*

**3) Gentle**

*Considerate, patient, appropriate*

This is very similar to that attitude of meekness we looked at early. *Someone once described Abraham Lincoln as a man of "velvet steel."*

**Philippians 4:5**

<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

**4) Willing to Yield**

*Reasonable, ready to obey*

This quality is to be open to reason. It is to be *compliant without compromise. Willing to listen. Not so stubborn and harsh like that of worldly wisdom.*

**Matthew Henry**

Heavenly wisdom is easy to be entreated; it is very persuadable, either to what is good or from what is evil. There is an easiness that is weak and faulty; but it is not a blamable easiness to yield

ourselves to the persuasions of God's word, and to all just and reasonable counsels or requests of our fellow-creatures; no, nor to give up a dispute, where there appears a good reason for it and where a good end may be answered by it.

It isn't that you roll over easy and are a push over but that you are yielded **TO** what is good and **FROM** what is evil.

## **5) Full of Mercy and Good Fruits**

*You'll notice here the "and", this indicates to us that these two are to be taken together. The whole statement expresses one idea. When you are full of mercy then a life full good fruit is to follow. To be full of mercy is to be constantly controlled by compassion.*

**Biblical mercy** is compassion in action, looking to gain nothing in return.

**A great illustration of this is with the parable of the Good Samaritan.** Worldly wisdom passes by on the other side because it is full of self-seeking but the wisdom of God is full of mercy and good fruits so it stops, it cares, it moves, and it's willing to pay whatever cost is necessary.

*James then ends this list with a dynamic duo of what this wisdom **IS NOT**.*

## **6) Without Partiality**

*Non-divisive, to be steady, "to operate under consistent principle"*

**This is the only time this Greek word appears in the New Testament.** The main idea is similar to what James addressed in the beginning of James 2 regarding showing partiality to others. It's to not play favorites and treat people differently based on class, race, or anything else.

*And this goes along side being...*

## **7) Without Hypocrisy**

*Sincere, genuine*

**Wisdom is not hypocritical.** It doesn't act one way around some people and another around others.

### **2 Corinthians 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> For our boasting is this: the testimony of our conscience that we conducted ourselves in the world in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom but by the grace of God, and more abundantly toward you.

**Now these qualities and characteristics** are not listed for us to try real hard and be these but rather for us to recognize what true wisdom looks like. These characteristics in your life will be a result of having received this wisdom from above. *(we will look at that more in a moment as we close)*

### **The Result (verse 18)**

<sup>18</sup> Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

*If the result of the fake wisdom is confusion and every evil thing, then conversely, we see the result of true wisdom is peace and righteousness.*

The fruit or the result or the outcome of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**RESULT:** righteousness, *it is only by this wisdom that right living before God can happen.*

**Righteousness always follows true wisdom.** It is out of a life of true wisdom that righteousness and then peace can exist. Where there is righteousness, there will be peace. Where there is unrighteousness, there will be chaos.

**Righteousness and peace always go together.**

**Isaiah 32:17**

<sup>17</sup> The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

**We looked at this verse earlier** when we looked at the result of that worldly wisdom and we find that the opposite of peace is a war and confusion.

**1 Corinthians 14:33**

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace.

*This is what God desires for our life! Ultimately, He gave us His righteousness that we might have peace!*

**Galatians 6:7-8**

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

When one sows to self-seeking, they reap confusion. When they sow to bitter envy, they reap every evil thing. When one sows to the pure, peaceable, and so on wisdom of God, the inevitable reality is a harvest of righteousness and peace.

**And it is these two things that Jesus will ultimately bring to bear one day.** It will be His righteous reign that will usher in a time of peace. *And oh how we cannot wait for that day where His wisdom reigns over all the earth!*

**So, what do we do? What is the proper response to this study?**

How do we make sure that we are living according to the right wisdom? Where do we go to get this? Do we have to take a class or enroll in an online course in wisdom? Not quite.

**The first step is to become a fool.** The deception that this world brings is that someone can be wise outside of the submission to Jesus Christ as Lord. It is the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom. This is the first step.

**1 Corinthians 3:18-20**

<sup>18</sup> Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness"; <sup>20</sup> and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

**You must become a fool in this world to receive this wisdom from God.** The world looks at the cross of Christ as foolishness and it is that cross that you must cling to! It pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe! And that message is Christ crucified. To become a fool is to admit your need of Jesus Christ and it will be the wisest decision you have ever made.

**Become a fool and cling to Christ!** Admit to Him your sinful foolishness and that you need Him as Savior. Believe in the finished work of Jesus on the cross who came, who died, and who rose again! Call on the name of Jesus who alone is wise and you shall be saved.

**And for all those who have already become fools for Christ,** this wisdom is already yours. All you have to do is ask for it.

**James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**Liberally:** generously and without reserve *No strings attached, no catch, no hidden fees or taxes.*

**Without reproach:** with no criticism *Without insult or mocking. No guilt involved.*

*The only condition is that when we ask, we ask in faith without doubting. We ask believing that He is not only Wisdom itself but that He will supply this wisdom to those that ask Him.*

**Oh, how He desires for us to come to Him for this wisdom from above!**

**James 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

***It is at this that should cause in us praise and worship for the One who alone is wise! For the One who became wisdom for us who are in Him, Jesus Christ the Lord.***

**A.W. Tozer, in *The Knowledge of the Holy*, wrote these words about God's wisdom in our lives:**

"To believe actively that our Heavenly Father constantly spreads around us providential circumstances that work for our present good and our everlasting well-being brings to the soul a veritable benediction. Most of us go through life praying a little, planning a little, jockeying for position, hoping but never being quite certain of anything, and always secretly afraid that we will miss the way. This is a tragic waste of truth and never gives rest to the heart. There is a better way. It is to repudiate our own wisdom and take instead the infinite wisdom of God... God has charged Himself with full responsibility for our eternal happiness and stands ready to take over the management of our lives the moment we turn in faith to Him."

***May we turn to Him in faith.***