

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Week of May 15, 2022 A.D.

The Virtues of Wisdom and Discipline

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Proverbs 1:1-2

1. Are wisdom and intelligence the same? What are the signs that a person has superior (a) intelligence? (b) wisdom? If you had to choose between having superior intelligence or superior wisdom, which would you choose?
2. Wisdom is defined as “insight; good sense; sound judgment; a wise attitude, belief, or course of action.” Does God place a high value on wisdom? Does our culture place a high value on wisdom?
3. Does every Christian have a duty to earnestly pursue wisdom? Please explain and/or describe the ways in which your church family (a) earnestly pursues wisdom and/or (b) shows little or no interest in pursuing wisdom?

Read Matthew 12:42

4. Who is the wisest man who ever walked the earth? Does every Christian who has the opportunity to own a Bible have the absolute duty to: (a) own a Bible? (b) read and study the Bible daily? (c) attend a regular weekly church service which rightly teaches the Bible? and/or (d) conform his life to the life of Christ?

Read Matthew 12:43-45

5. Does every human have either an evil spirit or a clean spirit? What do all people with an evil spirit have in common? What do all people with a clean spirit have in common? Do the verses at John 3:19-21 help to answer these questions?
6. Can a person be a Christian without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit? Is repentance required for a person to receive salvation unto eternal life? Must evil/unclean behavior be removed and replaced by good/holy behavior in order for the Holy Spirit to protect the life of a Christian from the schemes of the devil?

7. Is it ever wise to reject God's offer of eternal life which is made possible only by faith in Christ? Are all Christians wise? Are all non-Christians fools?

Read Proverbs 1:1-2

8. Discipline is defined as "a rule or system of rules which governs conduct or activity; self-control; training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character." Does God place a high value on discipline? Does our culture place a high value on discipline?

Read Philippians 3:17-21

9. Did Paul live a disciplined life? Does Paul demand that all Christians live a disciplined life? Are all Christians commanded to share and to follow a common pattern of behavior? Why? How?

Read John 8:31-32

10. Please describe how these verses give unique and special meaning to the definition of "discipline" which appears at paragraph 8 above.
11. Does discipline bring bondage or freedom? Are the American people living in freedom or in bondage? Is every teaching of the Bible true and without error or contradiction? Do the church attenders in America (a) hold to the teachings of Jesus? and/or (b) faithfully obey the Bible as the final authority for the direction and control of their behavior?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

12. Does Jesus command His church to "make converts" or to "make disciples"? What is the difference between a "convert" and a "disciple"? Based on this study alone, what is Christ saying to (a) you? (b) your biological family? (c) your small group? and (d) your church family?

Consider: We are living in a time when people have great knowledge and very little wisdom. We are living in a time when we have an abundance of rules, laws, and regulations—and little or no morality. Now what? You think about that. Amen.