

**Living Life For His Glory #2**  
**Living in Wisdom**  
James 1:5

Today we are continuing in a brand new series that concerns **“Living 2017 for God’s Glory,”** and this second message is entitled **“Living in Wisdom.”** At the Rockefeller Center in New York City, there are four large murals that hang on the wall. The first painting is of a primitive man laboring with his hands, attempting to survive his alien environment. Next to this painting is the portrayal of man having become the creator of tools, and the comforts of civilization have been multiplied. The third mural shows man to be both master and servants of the machine. The vast forces of the material world are now under his direction and his control. Our eyes move to the last painting with a sense of overwhelming surprise. It seems so out of context with the other three. Jesus Christ is the theme of this presentation, and He is seen in the setting of His Sermon on the Mount. Struggling up to Him are masses of men and women and children. Underneath that fourth mural, the mural of Christ, are inscribed these words: **“Man’s ultimate destiny depends not on whether he can learn new lessons or make new discoveries or conquests but on his acceptance of the lesson that was taught him over two thousand years ago.”**

This is the artist’s way of saying that *true wisdom* for man is dependent on man's *ability to adjust to and accept God’s revealed truth.* Let me explain what I am trying to say by using a historical person and event, and it has to do with Christopher Columbus and the discovery of the New World.

“In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue...” and discovered a wealthy place in God. He discovered America. While school children can recite the courageous voyage of Christopher Columbus to the New World, there is a part of the story that most adults have probably never heard.

It has not been until the past 40 years that the memoirs of Christopher Columbus have been translated into English and openly made known. That is because there were people who did not

want the world to know all that he had to say. It was Columbus who wrote, "People have claimed that I was a navigator. But I knew little about navigation. I knew much about God."

**In his memoirs, Columbus made it clear that it was God Who put it in his heart to set out in search of the New World.** But while the desire was strong, Columbus simply did not know what to do. So he sought God's wisdom.

During that time of seeking wisdom from God, the Holy Spirit led Columbus to Proverbs 8:27, "When he prepared the heavens, I (wisdom) was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth." As Columbus read that verse, the Spirit of God said to him, "It cannot be a compass unless it is round."

Columbus later wrote these words, "The Lord Jesus Christ, in His wisdom, showed me in His Word that the world was round, and there was not way I could fail. I set sail based on that verse." God's wisdom had unlocked the door to the entire Western Hemisphere of the globe.

**Wisdom is far more than just having a lot of information stuffed in your head.** It is the ability to allow God to correctly use the *knowledge* you have gained.

Paul wrote this advice in 1 Corinthians 2:6-8, "However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." **Paul says the "wisdom" of God is "hidden."** It is a mystery revealed by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Therefore, the person who chooses the *world's wisdom* over *God's wisdom* will spend his or her life in *futility* and *frustration*.

We often hear some preacher stand up and preach 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, "But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have

entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” **They usually use this passage at funerals to talk talk about how great and awesome heaven is!** Ladies and gentlemen, there is far more, for verse 10 says, “But (conjunctive word) God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” In fact, let me read verses 11-12, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might *know* the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

**So, what then, is the problem?** When Adam first sinned in the Garden of Eden, the *glory of God left his spirit*. The *light* and *life* of God were shut off from him. **He was separated from God and took on the sin nature of the fallen angel Lucifer.** Therefore, in the end, man lost contact with God’s “wisdom.”

**But God already had a plan in place not allow Satan to thwart His plan to bless and fellowship with humanity.** 1 Peter 1:19-20 reminds us that the restoration plan involved “the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot... (Who) was foreordained before the foundation of the world.” Therefore, *the moment you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior* you were *reconnected to God’s wisdom*, as seen in Colossians 2:2-3 where we have been told that “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Christ Jesus. **Therefore, get this, it is the “Spirit of God” that knows “the mind of God” and reveals to us the “deep things of God.”** Glory to God!

James tell us in James 3:17 that “This wisdom...is from above.” **James uses a present tense participle to make his point.** He says, “Wisdom *is coming* from above.” Wisdom from above is *not* available in *one-time allotments*, nor is it to be procured on the *installment plan*. James presents it as a *steady flow* from the *mind of God* to His children. **It just keeps on coming.** The supply of *God’s wisdom* never runs dry.

We have this truth given for us in Proverbs 2:6, “For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now

we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” James 1:5 says, “If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.” **James is simply telling us that “wisdom” comes from God in response to our prayer.** The need is *wisdom*; the channel to receive it is *prayer*. The problem is that too many of us never realize that God’s abundant supply of *wisdom* is available!

**It is the role of “wisdom” to give us direction when it comes to making decisions in our everyday living.** You see, many of the issues that we are forced to deal with on a daily basis are not mentioned specifically in the Bible. Complicated situations arise, and there seems to be no biblical parallel to use as a guide. In these instances God expects us to ask, “What is the wise thing for me to do?” **You see, “wisdom” fills the gap between the principles, promises, and commands of God.** Wisdom always takes all three into account and then asks, “What is the wise thing for me to do?”

**The other unique thing about “wisdom” is that it operates beyond the realm of mere right and wrong.** Somewhere along the way many of us have mistakenly come to believe that if the Bible does not specifically say something is wrong, it must be OK. But that is not true! Many things that the Bible does not specifically cite as *wrong* are detrimental to our *spiritual* as well as *physical* health.

**In other words, “wisdom” is often the tool the Holy Spirit uses to personalize God’s will for our lives.** What is wise for me may not be wise for you – and vice versa. Whether it involves financial investments, marriage, or changing places of employment.

**You see, God has not called us to merely stay on the right side of the line dividing right from wrong.** He has called us to *walk wisely*. The writer of Proverbs summed it up beautifully in Proverbs 28:26, “He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.”

**That is why God wants us to have “wisdom” – so we will not be destroyed because of wrong choices.** That is why it is so important to operate with “wisdom” concerning the “knowledge” that we have of a certain *situation or circumstance* that we face in life. In other words, *knowledge* might give us *the way out*, but *wisdom* will provide us with *victory!*

The Bible says in Philippians 2:5, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 2:3 says, “In (Christ) is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” **When you know Jesus as your personal Savior, you receive the mind of Christ, and He opens up to you wisdom.** That is, you begin to *understand things*, your *comprehension begins to expand*, your *discernment begins to deepen*, your *perception begins to widen*, your *perspective of life* (God, heaven, future, eternal things, and temporal things), *everything begins to change for your betterment*. And for the first time in your life, you understand the meaning of Romans 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

**Now listen to this statement: When Jesus Christ becomes the object of my affection, and the passion of my heart, and the obsession of my life, everything else that I need and desire, God will provide in my life.** How do I know that? Listen to this promise in Psalm 37:4, “Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Jesus made this statement in John 10:10, “I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” **Ladies and gentlemen, God wants you to have the very best that life has to offer, but you cannot accomplish that feat in your own ability, talent and knowledge.** And, God knowing that; has made “wisdom” abundantly available to everyone who will simply come to Him and ask for it! Therefore, as we begin this New Year I challenge each of you to operate in the *wisdom of God* in your every day living!

If you are not saved, why not today?

Everyone please stand for prayer.

Father,

I believe and confess that it is Your will for me to live my life to it's fullest. Therefore, give me the wisdom necessary for make the right choices for my life. In Jesus name. Amen.