



NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

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Dear Readers,

WALKING WISELY WITH GOD

Introduction

Wisdom is highly desirable by many today. It is not merely a matter of information or knowledge, but of skilful and practical application of the truth to the ordinary facets of life. James tells us, If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all (Jas 1:5). Admitting that we lack wisdom is a difficult but necessary first step on the road to prudent living.

Pursuit of Wisdom

If God (or a messenger from God) approached you and offered to grant you one wish, what would it be? Instead of asking for long life or wealth or power or the death of his foes, Solomon pleased the Lord by requesting a discerning heart of wisdom and he got it and is arguably one of the wisest kings that ever lived (1 King 3:10-12). Some thought they can get it from reading more books and/or getting more degrees from universities but the Bible says the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10). The reverence and the awe of Almighty Jehovah will provide the necessary discretion and prudence for this life to keep us from sin and evil and that is true wisdom in action. We need wisdom to discern God's purposes and in dealing with the problems of the days. Wisdom has less to do with knowledge than it has to do with the application of knowledge in specific ways. Wisdom is the skill in the art of living life with each component under the dominion and will of God. When a person in the Old Testament demonstrated exceptional ability in a craft or art, that person was said to have what the Hebrew language calls "hokma". Or some render it as "skill." In Exod 31:3-5, God filled a man named Bezaleel with the Holy Spirit and with "skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts; to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship." The word translated "skill" here is this word hokma or wisdom. Only God understands the way to wisdom because he alone is the source of true wisdom. The wisdom of God is evident in the beauty, order, richness, intricacy, variety and splendour of the created order and it is also evident in the person, powers and perfection of the God of creation.

Bezaleel was given the ability to take raw materials and shape them into something beautiful and ornate. In Proverbs, Solomon selected that Hebrew word, "hokma" to describe the quality needed by anyone who wanted to live a life of excellence.

The Practice of Wisdom

Believers are exhorted to walk not as fools but as Wise redeeming the time, for the days are evil. There are three characteristics of a Christian who walks in Wisdom and they are as follows:

1. Knowing what God's Principles Are and Carefully Applying Them to our Lives.
2. Making Good Use of our Time because of the Evil Conditions of our Age.
3. Understanding what the Specific Will of God for our Life.

Paul in Eph 5:15 says, See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Paul, having extended an invitation to us to awake out of darkness into the light, ie become saved by trusting the Lord (vs. 14). On the basis of receiving new life from Christ, Paul says we are to walk circumspectly or conduct our life watching carefully where we go. The word here means accurately, carefully and exactly ie to look from side to side, with alertness as to what is going on or to investigate the issue; cf Matt 2:8; Luke 1:3; ...

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Acts 18:25; 1 Thess 5:2. "The word expresses that accuracy is the outcome of carefulness." It speaks of a narrow walk through life (cf Matt 7:13-14), where we take great thoughtful care in our direction, without getting detoured or tripping up. And this circumspect walk is one "not of fools but as wise". A circumspect walk is a walk in wisdom, which is to conduct one's life and make advancement in God's will, which is a responsible godly walk.

Coming to Christ in saving faith results in the immediate possibility of walking in wisdom in the Christian life. The moment we are saved, we become accountable to God and can choose to walk wisely (cf 1 Cor 1:30-31; Col 2:9-10; Tit 2:11-15 and 3:3-8 Jer 31:33-34, Heb 8:10-13) if we really want to. What then is this wisdom? Basically it is the Christian's innate fear of God and his practical understanding of the will of God leading to godly behaviour. It is a knowing and applying of the biblical principles of the righteous life.

The Test of Walking in Wisdom

Those who walk in wisdom are also to "redeem the time because the days are evil." What does it mean to redeem the time? The English word translated "time" is not continuous time, as measured in hours, days, weeks, months or years but a measured, allocated, fixed season or epoch. The Apostle Paul is noting the quality of the time, ie "the days are evil." (ie last days are difficult and perilous before Christ returns). Here is the reason why we should redeem the time. We should walk in wisdom because this is a distinctly evil age; cf Gal. 1:4. So what does it mean to redeem the time? The term here means to buy back, ie to purchase the time for ourselves.

Paul is not merely exhorting us not to waste our precious limited time. He is saying we must go out of our way to seek opportunity to serve God and advance His kingdom. One cannot do if one is idle and wasting one's time. Be alert, be alive, and seek out opportunities for the Lord. Look for them and take them eagerly every time you are presented with one. This, of course, is all-important, because the days are evil (ie the depravity of the system and the soon coming judgment) and the conditions in which we find ourselves.

It is a call to seize one's opportunities (ie the sharing of the gospel) for oneself in view of the particular evil of our contemporary world. Instead of fools who waste time in trivial pursuits and ignore opportunities during these evil days, believers are to buy up the time for themselves, by seizing opportunities in contrast to the evil days in which they live. The wasting of time and opportunities is a foolish thing. Jonathan Edwards, the 18th century American theologian and revivalist just before his twentieth birthday wrote: "Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can." The Psalmist captures the value of redeeming the time in view of our temporal existence, compared to the eternity of God in this life.

Our days are but threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom (Ps 90:9-12). Eph 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

When we know what God's principles are and apply them obediently to our walk and make good use of our opportunities because of the evil conditions of our age, we are not to be fools but understand what the specific will of God is for our life. Therefore we are to walk circumspectly and to redeem the time. When we are obedient to God and carefully make full use of opportunities, then will we have an understanding of, "what the will of the Lord is."

The Seeking of God's Will as Wisdom

The "will of the Lord" in this case refers to the specific will of God, in contrast to the general will of God, mentioned in verse 15. At the moment of salvation, we are given the spiritual wisdom in Christ. As the New Covenant promise puts it, God "writes His law on our hearts", cf Jer 31:33. And as we are obedient to that and seize the opportunities provided, we follow and will understand the direct leading of God for our personal lives. Obedience and sensitivity are required here to the prompting of the Holy Spirit... (Gal 5:16). Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding (Prov 3:13). Our culture is heavy on information and technology but weak on true practical and spiritual wisdom. Godly Christians must know how to take the raw material of knowledge and refine it into true lasting wisdom, turning crude data into spiritual wisdom. Spiritual wisdom perseveres; it lasts beyond all the currents of culture and social norms, beyond the ephemeral fashions of the day. Spiritual wisdom seeks that which will last and is willing to trade immediate gratification for an eternal reward.

The Character of True Wisdom

There are all kinds of claims to wisdom by the world. According to James in Jas 3:13-17, there are two kinds of wisdom: false, earthly and devilish wisdom which leads to strife, confusion and every evil deed and true, heavenly, spiritual wisdom from God which has its attributes. They include purity, peace, mercy, ...

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gentleness, impartiality and non hypocrisy or sincerity among others. Do we measure up to these characteristics today? Something to think and pray about.

Conclusion

Folly or foolishness should not be used to describe the redeemed life. The elect are called to walk wisely and circumspectly, ie in wisdom where we know what God's principles are and submit to the spiritual rules that God has given to guide us. We are to make good use of our time by seizing our opportunities because of the evil times in which we live. In order to understand what the specific will of God is, for our personal life, we need to pray for wisdom and to know, obey and do the will of God. Therefore, YFers, let us be wise in our thoughts, words, deeds; pray and read his Word daily, follow and obey God while we study, work or serve in the National Service. Then one will be kept in the right direction with godly prudence and discretion in these last perilous days.

*Rev Jack Sin
Maranatha BP Church*

Read the Bible in A Year

Calender of Daily readings for March 2006:

<u>Day</u>	<u>Family</u>	<u>Private</u>
1	Exod 12 Luke 15	Job 30 1 Cor 16
2	Exod 13 Luke 16	Job 31 2 Cor 1
3	Exod 14 Luke 17	Job 32 2 Cor 2
4	Exod 15 Luke 18	Job 33 2 Cor 3
5	Exod 16 Luke 19	Job 34 2 Cor 4
6	Exod 17 Luke 20	Job 35 2 Cor 5
7	Exod 18 Luke 21	Job 36 2 Cor 6
8	Exod 19 Luke 22	Job 37 2 Cor 7
9	Exod 20 Luke 23	Job 38 2 Cor 8
10	Exod 21 Luke 24	Job 39 2 Cor 9
11	Exod 22 John 1	Job 40 2 Cor 10
12	Exod 23 John 2	Job 41 2 Cor 11
13	Exod 24 John 3	Job 42 2 Cor 12
14	Exod 25 John 4	Prov 1 2 Cor 13
15	Exod 26 John 5	Prov 2 Gal 1
16	Exod 27 John 6	Prov 3 Gal 2
17	Exod 28 John 7	Prov 4 Gal 3
18	Exod 29 John 8	Prov 5 Gal 4
19	Exod 30 John 9	Prov 6 Gal 5
20	Exod 31 John 10	Prov 7 Gal 6
21	Exod 32 John 11	Prov 8 Eph 1
22	Exod 33 John 12	Prov 9 Eph 2
23	Exod 34 John 13	Prov 10 Eph 3
24	Exod 35 John 14	Prov 11 Eph 4
25	Exod 36 John 15	Prov 12 Eph 5
26	Exod 37 John 16	Prov 13 Eph 6
27	Exod 38 John 17	Prov 14 Phil 1
28	Exod 39 John 18	Prov 15 Phil 2
29	Exod 40 John 19	Prov 16 Phil 3
30	Lev 1 John 20	Prov 17 Phil 4
31	Lev 2 John 21	Prov 18 Col 1

The One Another's of the Bible

The Christian is called to be a servant of God and to one another. Have you ever made a list of the "one another" statements found in the New Testament? Have you ever wondered what we can do for one another? At least half a dozen times, we are admonished to "love one another". A number of additional precise statements that further explain what practical Christian edification really is, is given below for us to consider:-

- Wash one another's feet (John 13:14).
- Prefer one another (Rom 12:10).
- Be of the same mind toward one another (Rom 12:16)
- Do not judge one another (Rom 14:13)
- Do not speak evil of one another (Jas 4:11)
- Edify one another (Rom 14:19; 1 Thes 5:11)
- Receive one another (Rom 15:7)
- Admonish one another (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16)
- Care for one another (1 Cor 12:25)
- Minister gifts to one another (1 Pet 4:10)
- Greet one another (1 Cor 16:20)
- Serve one another (Gal 5:13)
- Do not "bite and devour" one another (Gal 5:15)
- Do not provoke one another (Gal 5:26)
- Bear one another's burdens (Gal 6:2)
- Forbear and forgive one another (Eph 4:32)
- Submit to one another (Eph 5:21; 1 Pet 5:5)
- Do not lie to one another (Eph 4:25; Col 3:9)
- Comfort [encourage] one another (1 Thes 4:18)
- Exhort one another (Heb 3:13)
- Consider one another (Heb 10:24)
- Do not grumble against one another (Jas 5:9)
- Confess your faults to one another (Jas 5:16)
- Pray for one another (Jas 5:16)
- Use hospitality one to another (1 Pet 4:9)
- Fellowship with one another (1 John 1:7)

All of these ministries may not be done during worship service nor should they be limited to Sabbath day alone. We minister to one another throughout the week by our prayers and communicate to encourage and comfort the weak and sick.

What is important is that we have the "servant attitude" as we gather. We don't assemble "to be served but to serve" (Matt 20:28). We call our Sunday gathering worship "service" because it is a time of true sanctified worship and serving as well as we exalt and praise God together in spirit and in truth. It is not only the full-time "ministering staff" or elders and deacons that should have a share in spiritual ministry of the Church; every believer has the privilege and responsibility of helping in edifying one another in the Lord.

Do not be a loner but be involved in the fellowship of the saints. Consider what you can do for Christ in edifying and serving God and one another in 2006 in New Life London. Something to pray and think about.

Rev Jack Sin

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON
CHURCH THEME: STRIVING TO LIVE ABOVE OUR SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS
IN CHRIST (Ephesians 1:3)

Our worship services begin promptly at **11.00 am and 4.00 pm**.
 Please stay back for Bible Study and fellowship lunch after the morning worship and for tea after the evening service. Invite your friends to come to Church.

Worship Services			WELCOME
Morning	<i>Today: 05/03/2006</i>	<i>Next Week: 12/03/2006</i>	
<i>Chairman:</i>	Seeoth Yoong Chiang	Jonathan Kim	
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong	NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
<i>Message:</i>	Walk in Love	Submitting One to Another	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening Service: Westminster Larger Catechism (WLC)
<i>Text:</i>	Ephesians 5:1-21	Ephesians 5:22-6:4	<i>This week:</i>
<i>Organist:</i>	Amanda	Yanning	Q64: What is the invisible church?
Evening			Q65: What special benefits do the members of the invisible church enjoy by Christ?
<i>Chairman:</i>	Alvin Chow	Jeff Pun	Q66: What is that union which the elect have with Christ?
<i>Speaker:</i>	Mok Chee Cheong	Mok Chee Cheong	<i>Next week:</i>
<i>Message:</i>	WLC Questions 64-66 See News/Announcement	WLC Questions 67-69	Q67: What is effectual calling?
<i>Pianist:</i>	Feng Qian	Ming Yann	Q68: Are the elect only effectually called?
Other Duties			Q69: What is the communion in grace which the members of the invisible church have with Christ?
	Today	Next Week	Do stay back and find out the answers from the Word of God.
<i>Ushers</i>	Alvin/Daniel	Jeff/Wah Soon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10th Anniversary preparations: This will take place on Jun 25. For those interested in helping out, please see Mok or Jonathan.
<i>Sunday Sch:</i>	Yanning	Alvin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Camp: The YAF will be organising the church Easter camp, Apr 14-17. The camp theme is "Living for Jesus". For more information, please see the YAF committee.
<i>Singspirat'n:</i>	Ming Yann/Feng Qian	Esmeralda/Ming Yann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church renovations: The church will be making several improvements. Please pray that the renovations will be done properly and in a timely manner.
<i>Lunch:</i>	Maureen	Maureen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ladies Fellowship: Please take note that there will be a short meeting after the morning worship service next week.
<i>Washing-up:</i>	YAF Group 1	YAF Group 2	
<i>Bible Study:</i>	DHW – Genesis 21	Ladies Fellowship	
Appointments of the Week			
Fri 10 Mar	7.00 pm	Young Adults Fellowship: Prayer (led by Ming Yann)	
Sat 11 Mar	4.00 pm	Prayer Meeting & Bible Study: Spkr / C'man: Alvin	
Last Week's Worship Service Collections			
Offering: £201.94		Lunch: £26.50	
<u>The Shorter Catechism</u>			
Q.88 How is the Word made effectual to salvation?			
Ans: The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the Word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation.			
<i>Comments: In order that the Bible may make us wise unto salvation, two things are necessary – the Holy Spirit's influence on God's part, and a diligent study of it on ours. When these two things go together, men are convinced of their sins and brought to Christ. They are made holier in their lives, and happier in their hearts.</i>			