

L.3 - Light Shines in the Darkness - Wednesday: Human Reasoning Apart From Scripture

Based on *Great Controversy* Chapter 3 – “An Era of Spiritual Darkness”

1. “I used to think...” convinces us we can’t trust our own wisdom.
2. **Proverbs 16:25** [CLICHE]– *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*
 - a. Think of the implications of this divine promise: What SEEMS right to us – ends in DEATH.
 - BIBLE EXAMPLES – David asks the Prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 7 if he should build the temple / Joshua welcomes the deceptive Gibeonites in Joshua 9
 - NEXT LEVEL – You could choose what is apparently the “Right Way,” but if you chose it BECAUSE of YOUR WISDOM, it’s the wrong way.
 - It’s like Guessing the right answer in your high school math class WITHOUT “showing your work”
 - If you don’t arrive at the right math answer through the right means, you get it wrong.
 - We need an anchorpoint OUTSIDE of our limited sphere of understanding.
 - God’s wisdom is UNLIMITED
 - **1 Corinthians 1-2** is excellent – Just chapter **2:11-12** – *Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.¹² 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.*
3. NINE ways we trust Human wisdom above God’s Word.
 1. We ask children, what do YOU want to be when you grow up?
 2. We are impressed by the world’s credentials
 - We listen to “Influencers” / “Thought Leaders” / “Bestsellers” / Investors / Online Reviews / Google / Our spouse / OUR FEELINGS ... **FIRST**
 - John Bunyan represented this in *Pilgrim’s Progress* by a character called: “Worldly Wiseman”
 3. We worry
 - **Matthew 6:31-33** – *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*
 4. We obey God SLOWLY
 - a. We make a PROS & CONS list for obeying OR we RATIONALIZE with God
 5. We don’t consult God with decisions – Or we consult him ... “BRIEFLY” (no fasting / no studying His will / no LISTENING)
 - **Proverbs 3:6** – *In ALL YOUR WAYS acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*
 6. We set aside our principles TEMPORARILY when facing an EMERGENCY
 - Every one of us will face this situation: OBEY or SAVE MY LIFE
 7. We don’t start our day with prayer
 - **Steps To Christ 70** – *Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your very first work. Let your prayer be, “Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide with me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee.” This is a daily matter. Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.*

8. We don't study God's Word – Instead, we talk a lot about our opinions and feelings
 - **Matthew 4:4** – *“It is written, ‘Man SHALL NOT LIVE by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”*
9. We don't plead for the Holy Spirit
 - **Steps To Christ 91.1** – *Never should the Bible be studied without prayer. Before opening its pages we should ask for the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, and it will be given.*
3. Listen to this promise: **2 Timothy 1:7**– *For God has not GIVEN us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*
 - a. A sound mind WILL THINK sound thoughts, just as a good tree produces good fruit and a clean spring brings forth pure water
 - b. Nothing good comes from us, but God promises we can have the mind of Christ (**1 Corinthians 2:16**)

James 1:5-8 – *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.*⁶ *But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.*⁷ *For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*⁸ *he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*