

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

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The New Year

"No man is born wise." – 17<sup>th</sup> Century Proverb

"A man should never be ashamed to own that he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday." – Jonathan Swift, *Thoughts On Various Subjects*

"Knowledge becomes wisdom only after it has been put to practical use." – Anonymous

You would be amazed at how many people believe that knowledge and wisdom are the same thing. Knowledge is the accumulation of information, but wisdom is the practical use of that information. Have you ever met someone who was book smart, who got high grades in school, but you were astounded at how little common sense they exhibited? Or, have you ever met a man who had very little education, but was amazingly wise in how he functioned in life? The latter is indeed far better.

One of the most amazing statements of Jesus is found in Matthew 10:16. (This was on the occasion of the limited commission, in which the disciples were sent to the lost sheep of Israel.) "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

It is not an effort to commend the deceitfulness of the serpent, but to note his shrewdness. One using great care in word and deed, but retaining innocence is a wonderful goal. That is the Lord's desire for His disciples. We certainly should apply that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Often in speaking of wisdom we make reference to King Solomon, who asked of God, "Now, O LORD my God...give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" (1 Kings 3:7-9). "And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore" (1 Kings 4:29).

There is such good judgment in even seeking to obtain wisdom. So many have been fooled into thinking that knowledge will automatically bring greater wisdom, but in truth, they have deceived themselves. They don't understand the importance of learning how to apply what they have learned.

Pray for wisdom. After all, aren't we encouraged to do that? "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" (James 1:5).

"He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good" (Prov. 19:8).