



Has Wisdom Been Forgotten?

Psalms 90:12: (NKJV) "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

"You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions." - Naguib Mahfouz

Wisdom! When I hear that word I conjure up a number of images in my mind. A long white beard. A slow and deliberate response to a question. Thoughtfully sitting back in a chair, elbows on the arms of the chair with the fingers from your left hand touching just the tips of the fingers from your right hand. Thoughtfully stroking your chin. When I

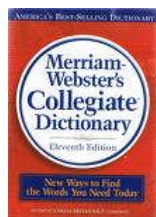
hear the word wisdom, I think of Gandalf, from Lord of the Rings. My grandmother. King Solomon - in his early years. Abraham Lincoln. The Apostle Paul. Jesus. God himself. When I think about wisdom, I look around and wonder - where is it? Stay with us this morning as we look into what wisdom is and how it can change our lives!

What is Wisdom?

American Heritage Dictionary:

wis·dom NOUN:

1. The ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting; insight.
2. Common sense; good judgment:
 - 3a. The sum of learning through the ages;
 - 3b. Wise teachings of the ancient sages.
4. A wise outlook, plan, or course of action.



Merriam-Webster's Dictionary:

- 1 a: accumulated philosophic or scientific learning : KNOWLEDGE
b: ability to discern inner qualities and relationships : INSIGHT
c: good sense : JUDGMENT
d: generally accepted belief
- 2: a wise attitude, belief, or course of action
- 3: the teachings of the ancient wise men

Consider This! What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? What is the difference between knowing something and being wise about it?

Old Testament words primarily used for "wisdom"

- Strong's #2451 chokmah (khok-maw'); wisdom (in a good sense);
Strong's #2452 chokmah (Aramaic) (khok-maw'); wisdom;
Strong's #2449 chakam (khaw-kam') to be wise (in mind, word or act); to be wise, to make wise, teach wisdom, instruct to be made wise;
Strong's #2454 chokmowth (khok-moth'); or chakmowth (khak-moth'); wisdom;



Strong's #8454 *tuwshiyah* (too-shee-yaw'); or *tushiyah* (too-shee-yaw'); probably meaning to substantiate; support or (by implication) ability, i.e. (direct) help, (in purpose) an undertaking, (intellectual) understanding.

New Testament word for "wisdom"

Strong's #4678 *sophia* (sof-ee'-ah); wisdom (higher or lower, worldly or spiritual):

So there are no surprises in the definitions! Wisdom means....wisdom!

It has been said that the book of Proverbs is a book of wisdom for the word itself has the implication of "to rule or to govern." Solomon wrote the Proverbs - he was given wisdom by God and much else as well. The context of the following is when Solomon became King.

We begin when Solomon was young and about to become King, probably about 18-20 years old at this time.

1 Chronicles 22:13: (NKJV) *"¹Then David said, 'This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel.' ²So David commanded to gather the aliens who were in the land of Israel; and he appointed masons to cut hewn stones to build the house of God. ³And David prepared iron in abundance for the nails of the doors of the gates and for the joints, and bronze in abundance beyond measure, ⁴and cedar trees in abundance; for the Sidonians and those from Tyre brought much cedar wood to David. ⁵Now David said, 'Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the LORD must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.' So David made abundant preparations before his death. ⁶Then he called for his son Solomon, and charged him to build a house for the LORD God of Israel. ⁷And David said to Solomon: 'My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build a house to the name of the LORD my God; ⁸but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight. ⁹Behold, a son shall be born to you, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies all around. His name shall be Solomon, for I will give peace and quietness to Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build a house for My name, and he shall be My son, and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever.' ¹¹Now, my son, may the LORD be with you; and may you prosper, and build the house of the LORD your God, as He has said to you. ¹²Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God. ¹³Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the LORD charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear nor be dismayed.'"*

There is a transition here between King David and King Solomon. David is old, Solomon is young, and he is giving a magnificent project over to him. It is at a point in time where David is saying "I can't do this, but you can - seek God's wisdom and understanding, and in that way, you will be able to do something magnificent in the site of God and men."



Observations about the wisdom of King David at the end of his life:

- This text shows David as a man after God's own heart - his desire was to Honor God, in spite of previous bad judgments and errors in his life.
- David did ALL HE COULD to prepare for the building of the temple. God wouldn't allow David to actually build the Temple because David shed so much blood on the battlefield.
- David tells his young son all that has been put in place for him as future King. He tells him that God is going to bless him, there will be a period of peace and prosperity, and he tells him of the goodness of God and to take it seriously.
- David specifically prays that wisdom and understanding be given to his son. He doesn't assume this will occur - he actually prays for wisdom and understanding to be given to his son.
- David encourages Solomon towards strength, courage, fearlessness and a positive outlook. He is really giving his son a really deep and wise "pep talk," as he is about to turn the reigns of the kingdom to him.



Now, Solomon has become King:

2 Chronicles 1:7-10: (NRSV) *"⁷That night God appeared to Solomon, and said to him, 'Ask what I should give you.' ⁸Solomon said to God, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to my father David, and have made me succeed him as king. ⁹O LORD God, let your promise to my father David now be fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰Give me now wisdom and knowledge to go out and come in before this people, for who can rule this great people of yours?'"*

Observations about an Attitude Ripe for the Development of Wisdom:

- God's command to Solomon is open-ended and reminiscent of finding Aladdin's Lamp
- Solomon's answer recalled God's mercy: *"You have shown great and steadfast love to my father David"* (His answer recalls the history that he witnessed and what his father told him. Solomon would have seen the overrulings in David's life.)
 - Solomon's answer is God centered - *"O LORD God, let your promise to my father David now be fulfilled."* Solomon listened to what his father told him. He is looking toward a Godly approach rather than a human approach.
 - Solomon's answer is full of humility - *"you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth."* Notice - *"You made me King"* - Solomon doesn't attribute his kingship to himself, but acknowledges God gets the credit.
- Solomon's answer begs for wisdom and knowledge
- Solomon's answer reiterates that it is the people of God he is to rule. This shows the humility that is so important in the application of knowledge.



"The function of wisdom is to discriminate between good and evil." - Cicero

The need for wisdom is so that we can do the right things with great integrity and foresight.



2 Chronicles 1:11-13: *"¹¹God answered Solomon, "Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked for long life, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may rule my people over whom I have made you king, ¹²wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like." ¹³So Solomon came from the high place at Gibeon, from the tent of meeting, to Jerusalem. And he reigned over Israel."*

Observations on God's answer:

- God blesses heart-service not lip-service - *"Because this was in your heart"* God reads Solomon's heart and knows that he isn't just asking this because his father told him to.
- God recognizes Solomon's humility - *"you have not asked for possessions, wealth, honor"* He recognizes that Solomon is truly asking for absolutely the right things.
- God fulfills the needs of a King who seeks - *"wisdom and knowledge are granted to you"*
- God blesses in abundance - *"I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like."*



We are full of information (Twitter, email, texts, etc.) but lacking in the wisdom behind it all. Is this chatter or something that creates deeper integrity? In all of our New Year's resolutions, has wisdom been a part of our daily life, or is it something we don't take the time to think about?

Wisdom is manifest in the actions of God because God always sees the long range. God always sees what's coming down the road and not just what is in front of us right this second. He sees the bigger picture.

The results of seeking Wisdom and God's blessing:

1 Kings 4:29-34:(NRSV) *"²⁹God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, ³⁰so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. ³²He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. ³³He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. ³⁴People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom."*

The wisdom of Solomon became renowned throughout the civilized world at that time. Great people from other nations came to see him.

"Six essential qualities that are the key to success: Sincerity, personal integrity, humility, courtesy, wisdom, charity."

- William Menninger



(Source: *the Commentator Gill*)

Verse 32: "And he spake three thousand proverbs - Wise sayings, short and pithy sentences, instructive in morality and civil life; these were not written as the book of Proverbs, but spoken only, and were taken from his lips, and spread by those that heard them for the use of others, but in process of time were lost; whereas the above book, being written under divine inspiration, is preserved: and his songs were a thousand and five; some things that were useful to improve the minds and morals of men he delivered in verse, to make them more pleasant and agreeable, that they might be the more easily received and retained in memory; but of all his songs, the most excellent is the book of Canticles, called "the Song of Songs," (Song of Solomon) being divine and spiritual, and dictated by the inspiration of the Spirit of God: he was both a moral philosopher and poet, as well as a botanist and naturalist, and well-skilled in medicine, as the following words suggest, 1 Kings 4:33."

Singing helps us remember, so it was wise of Solomon to put his thoughts into song.

The first Proverb gives a preview of the role wisdom played as a sought after attribute...it puts wisdom in its proper place.

Proverbs 1:9: (NRSV) *"¹The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: ²For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, ³for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young ⁵let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill, ⁶to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. ⁷The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. ⁸Hear, my child, your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching; ⁹for they are a fair garland for your head, and pendants for your neck."*

In the context of the world today, Solomon is saying learning wisdom helps gain instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice and equity; it tells us to not push aside the simple but to teach shrewdness...there is so much here about the purpose of wisdom. So our question is, where has wisdom gone? Let's get it back into our daily lives.

Wisdom has been replaced by violence, pride, corruption, ungodliness. It certainly is no longer at the top of the list. Pride and wisdom don't belong in the same house. You can't be full of pride and be full of wisdom because the two are contradictory to each other. When pride gets in the way, wisdom can no longer function. Wisdom is very fragile and if not handled carefully, we cannot use it.

When we respect God, we begin to exercise wisdom.



So, what have we learned thus far?

To find wisdom, first have an attitude ripe for the development of Wisdom...

- **Recall God's mercy**

Psalms 111:10: *"The fear (reverence) of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever."*



Realize there is something much bigger than you, thereby taking pride out of the picture.

- **Be God-centered**

2 Timothy 3:14-17: (NRSV) *"¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."*

This is a strong admonition towards wisdom to Timothy from the Apostle Paul. Timothy is a relatively young man and Paul is like a spiritual father to him. Paul explains that Timothy knows what he has learned and he knows where it came from. We can know things, but what makes us equipped for a good work is a wise application of the things that we know. We need to be God-centered in order to make wisdom work.

- **Be full of humility**

1 Peter 5:5,6: (NKJV) *"⁵Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."*

"We thought, because we had power, we had wisdom."

- Stephen Vincent Benet

With all of the knowledge we have in this age and the clamor of individual rights, young people are people taught that what your parents say or what your grandparents say is not important. When we show a lack of respect for the older generation, we are showing a void in wisdom.

The Apostle Peter is telling the younger to be submission to the older, but all to be submissive to each other. It needs to start when we are young, but it needs to stay in place, otherwise we can't maintain a wise approach to life.

- **Seek for wisdom and knowledge**

Proverbs 16:16: *"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"*

"It's so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and then don't say it."

- Sam Levenson

Solomon continually talked about getting wisdom and understanding in the Proverbs. How do we do this? Wisdom has to be acquired by paying attention to life.

- **Reiterate that it is God who rules**

Jeremiah 9:24: *"But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD."*



Daniel provides insight when he speaks of the end times in Daniel 12:4: *"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."*

Daniel talks about a great increase of knowledge and people running to and fro. We have certainly experienced this, especially over the last 100 years. It is interesting that the prophecy does *not* say there will be a great increase in wisdom, just a great increase of knowledge. As you look around, you can see in many cases when knowledge is applied without wisdom.

Now let's look at the art of applying Wisdom to our daily lives:

Theme Text: To apply wisdom we should:

Psalms 90:12: *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*

Don't take for granted that life just continues on and on. There is a finite amount of time to develop ourselves. There is a foresight put in place to know we have to learn wisdom.

Proverbs 23:23: *"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."*

When you find what is true and right and good, do whatever you can to attain truth and then don't ever let it go.

Proverbs 29:15: *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."*

Disciplining a child is a good thing - use wisdom - no scripture says that you need to be your child's best friend.

Observe!

Proverbs 30:24-28: (NKJV) *"²⁴There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: ²⁵The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer; ²⁶The rock badgers (rabbits) are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags; ²⁷The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks; ²⁸The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings' palaces."*

Solomon is telling us to observe the things that are around you - see how things work within God's creation. The way things function in nature can teach us how to be wise in our own lives.

Pride destroys the ability to gain and apply Wisdom:

Proverbs 16:18,19: (NKJV) *"¹⁸Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. ¹⁹Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."*

So often in the world today, when someone is given power or wealth, it develops great pride. With great pride, the ability of wisdom to rule gets diminished.



Pride's reaction to wisdom: Let's compare David to Saul...

1 Samuel 18:5: (KJV) *"⁵And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants."*

David is showing his ability to behave wisely with a humble spirit.

1 Samuel 18:12-16: (KJV) *"¹²And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul. ¹³Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. ¹⁴And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him. ¹⁶But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them."*

Saul was very obviously threatened by David. Whereas David behaved wisely, Saul was reactionary and demonstrated jealousy and pride.

What was Saul missing?

Psalms 32:8: *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."*

Saul put aside the guidance of God.

How do we see the development of wisdom in the life of Jesus?

Luke 2:39-40: (NRSV) *"³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him."*

Luke 2:52: (NRSV) *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor."*

Matthew 13:54-56: (NRSV) *"⁵⁴He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?'"*

Jesus as a child grew and became strong and filled with wisdom. When it comes to the point of his preaching, he is just a carpenter's son, he is from Nazareth. We see Jesus pouring out all of this great wisdom. In so doing, he is shocking people because they are not used to this level of wisdom coming from someone from Nazareth. It certainly got their attention.

Consider This! Don't forget to apply the knowledge of others' expertise in a wide fashion in your own life. Look beyond yourself to find knowledge that can be put in place so that wisdom can abound! There is a great deal of humility in this.



What is the importance of wisdom to the Christian life?

Acts 6:8-10: (NRSV) *"⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke."*

This is at the end of Stephen's life. He was following truth and following God's way. Those that stood against him could not answer against the wisdom with which he presented himself. It is such an important part of wisdom to be able to listen rather than prepare what we are going to say when they take a breath.

Colossians 1:9: *"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."*

Knowledge is great, we need it - but don't get all the knowledge without wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Colossians 3:16: *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."*

We can know the scriptures and rehearse them and repeat them, but are we allowing them to dwell in our lives richly, with wisdom?

Colossians 4:5: *"Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."*

Each step of your life that you walk ought to be in the context of wisdom.

James 1:5: *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

"We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what will do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery."
- Samuel Smiles

If we lack in wisdom, the first thing to do is to do what King Solomon did - ask God for more wisdom. We will get experiences to help us develop wisdom.

What about trials and difficulty?

Everybody falls short and has difficulties in their lives. What we want to do is to take these experiences and apply wisdom to them, so that when we do fall down flat on our faces, we can look back, draw something from it and look forward.

Don't waste your experiences...use them!

Wisdom knows that difficulties and trials are necessary:

Hebrews 12:3-12: (NRSV) *"³Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children - "My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or*



lose heart when you are punished by him; ⁶for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts." ⁷Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? ⁸If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. ⁹Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. ¹¹Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees..."

"Hesitancy after the wrong is seen increases the power of the temptation."

- Unknown

Use the difficulties in your life - even the failures, to develop discipline. If you don't have discipline, you are not a child of God. Children learn through the discipline. It seems painful, but they should be experiences to help us develop in our lives.

Wisdom has to do with integrity. When you see something that is not right, allowing it to develop increases the power of temptation.

Psalms 1:1-3: (NKJV) ¹*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;* ²*But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.* ³*He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."*

"It is characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things."

- Henry David Thoreau

This is a beautiful lesson showing progression. First is the man that walks with the ungodly, perhaps luring you towards trouble. You are walking along and then it talks about "stands in the path of sinners." So now you've stopped walking, you've stopped progressing, you are now entertaining the thought. "Sits in the seat of the scornful," now you've sat down, you've relaxed in the context of evil. What you've done is allowed the wrong you've seen to grab hold of you. Wisdom says: Don't get involved in that process!

Flee, flee, flee!

1 Timothy 6:10,11: (NKJV) ¹⁰*For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* ¹¹*But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness."*

It is a travesty of those preachers of the gospel who are so money oriented and tell you that we need to be donating to their cause for us to be blessed, while they are flying in the private jets and taking luxurious vacations, wearing thousand dollar suits. They bask in the glory of the dollars, but here the scripture is talking to us Christians. People strayed from the faith then and it certainly is happening now. Wisdom does not seek gain for personal use. It seeks gain for the glory of God. Notice the scripture very strongly says "flee these things" - run away from them. Look at what you are



associated with - is this a gospel of prosperity so that I can have stuff, or is this the gospel of Jesus Christ which is a gospel of service, sacrifice and God's blessings.

2 Timothy 2:22: (NKJV) *"**Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**"*

1 Corinthians 6:18: (NKJV) *"**Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.**"*

Here we see things we need to run away from in order to apply wisdom in our lives. In our world, it is hard to run away from sexual immorality because it is around every corner! It is our responsibility if we want to live wisely; this is something we ought not to have any part of. We can't apply wisdom in our lives if we are going to be dabbling in sin and allowing it to control us.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14: (NKJV) *"¹²Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. ¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry."*

*"Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something."
- Plato*

In those days, idolatry was a lot easier to identify because it was literally the worship of idols. Now the worship of idols has permeated into all aspects of our lives. We are told to flee from idolatry - anything that is in the place of God in our lives.

These are the things to run away from - the love of money, youthful lusts, sexual immorality, and idolatry. These are not ways to pursue wisdom.

Finally, Earthly vs. Spiritual Wisdom:

1 Corinthians 2:7: (NRSV) *"¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory."*



***"Wisdom consists
of the anticipation of
consequences."***

- Norman Cousins

This makes a stark comparison between earthly wisdom and spiritual wisdom. The Apostle is talking to the Corinthians who had all kinds of problems. He didn't come to them presenting himself as a fountain of wisdom from which you may drink - they were used to these kinds of things. He approached them on a spiritual level only because spirituality was what was important. Their faith shouldn't rest on human wisdom. It was okay in its place, but we need to be looking at something much higher and greater. When you get to a point of spiritual maturity, you will hear words based on Godliness and not based on human power.

***So Has Wisdom Been Forgotten?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!***

***"To know when to be
generous and when
firm—that is wisdom."***

- Elbert Hubbard