

9.a. THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST

We have been dealing with the love and beauties of Christ as a reason for us to love Him. But we also have His characteristics of wisdom and knowledge as another excellent reason to love Him.

We often have respect, and may I say admiration, for very knowledgeable and humble people of the world; how much more deserving is our Lord of this respect. The knowledge of Christ is called omniscience.

In the beginning Adam and Eve disobeyed God because they desired to have knowledge (the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil) This knowledge they sought independently of God because they were listening to the guile of Satan.

We as Christians now understand that all knowledge and truth are vested in Christ, and if we desire to have wisdom, **JAM 1:5** tells us how to obtain it. The wisdom of truth and knowledge of Christ in God is displayed by what God does, as a witness for us of who He is (Crucifixion of Jesus on the cross). The knowledge of Salvation is held only in Christ and is to be had only from Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We as God's people come to know the wisdom of Christ, as it is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. To discern Spiritual things, we need Spiritual wisdom. And it is only from on high that we receive it. **1 COR 2:14** "The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him ... "

There are two sorts of wisdom in the world. Civil wisdom and prudence for managing daily affairs, and secondly, the ability to learn and produce art and literature. But these have been rejected by God as they have no use in accomplishing the wisdom that serves God's purposes unto salvation.

True wisdom and knowledge are shut up in Jesus Christ. "I am the way, the truth and the life" Does this statement not embody all we need to know about the salvation process? "He who does not come to Christ walks in darkness"

In the creation process God has made Himself known to mankind through His power, goodness, wisdom, and all sufficiency to His creatures - **ROM 1:19-21** But these works of creation do not reveal His patience, long suffering, and forbearance.

It is through God's work of providence in preserving and ruling the world, by cursing the earth and displaying His anger at men's sins, that God has revealed from heaven His wrath against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. Yet He reveals His patience and forbearance to all so that they may turn from their wickedness.

The love of God to and for mankind is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. The wisdom of the world is foolishness because it does not reveal the love of God for us. To know God's love would be pointless if we did not know of His pardoning mercy and grace. Pardoning mercy and grace is found in Christ alone. "Pardoning mercy is God's free, gracious acceptance of a sinner because satisfaction was made (Christ's death) to His justice, consistent with His Glory" Pardoning mercy may be considered as a purchased grace because of the price of Christ's blood on the cross. This pardoning mercy is only available to us through the Lord Jesus Christ. We can only know God by recognizing that He is the source of all love and mercy.

If we deny the Son, we deny the Father. If we have the Son, we have the Father.

God's justice in punishing sin, is shown to us clearly in the suffering and death on the cross of our Lord and Saviour. God made it clear to Adam that to disobey, would result in their deaths.

God's justice in punishing sin is supremely revealed in Christ. Who would "sacrifice" that which is most precious and valuable to us for something of little or no worth? Yet God sacrificed His most precious son for us - while we were yet sinners and destined to the fires of hell. The angels who sinned have no second chance, but only those who God had predestined to eternal life. The magnificence of this redeeming work of Christ is only revealed to us in a cursory manner through the wisdom granted to us by the Holy Spirit. Perhaps a fuller revelation of this work would overwhelm our finite understanding. The brightness of God's justice shines most clearly through Christ's sacrifice.

The doctrine of life, disobedience, and death has been fixed by God - it can never be changed (we can say it is more than written in stone), yet God in His infinite wisdom has devised a process to bring us back to life. How often have we been bamboozled by a simple problem, yet nothing is too difficult for God - yet God's justice must be satisfied. Where justice must be served, punishment must be called for.

We need to understand the horror of sin in its mass spilling of blood, mans suffering brought upon by men, the pride of men who wish to usurp God's honour, to give us some insight into God's justice and righteousness. Was it easy for Christ to suffer in our stead - He was after all God. No, He paid a terrible price in His human body for our lawlessness. He sweated great drops of blood in His anguish. Yet it was the will of His Father that He desired to fulfil. He was humiliated and spat on for the sake of obedience to His Father's calling.