

**The First Baptist Church of Columbus**  
**Dr. Paul Large, Pastor**  
**Sermon Notes Outline for video posted March 28, 2021**

**T I T L E: WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

**T E X T: James 1:5-8; 3:17**

**I. A BIBLICAL ASSESSMENT OF WISDOM FROM ABOVE**

James 3:17 ---- But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

**A. Wisdom from above is pure.**

“pure” is the umbrella word under which many other admirable character qualities abide.

Wisdom from above is pure (sincere) in the sense that there is no admixture at all of selfish-ambition or the like and is expressed primarily in humble behavior.

God is the supreme model and purveyor of pure wisdom.

1 John 3:3 ---- And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

**B. Wisdom from above is elite in the sense that it “hob-nobs” with such words as true, noble, right, lovely, praiseworthy, and virtuous (see Philippians 4:8, cf. the NIV).**

Philippians 4:8 ----Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

**C. Wisdom from above does not necessarily require a certain INTELLECT, EDUCATION or EXPERIENCE since it is a gift from the Lord and comes to all who ask in prayer.**

Prov. 2:6... for the Lord gives wisdom...

INTELLECT — Einstein.... intelligent but not wise...

Lehman Strauss -- Einstein was a genius in mathematics, but without God in his life he must go on the records as a man without wisdom. And permit me here to tell you that he was exactly just that. At a conference attended by outstanding churchmen and scientists, a paper was read from Albert Einstein in which he said: "In their struggle for the ethical good, teachers of religion must have the stature to give up the doctrine of a personal god."

God has something to say about that... Psalm 14:1 ---- The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.

EDUCATION — Democratic Rep. Jerry Nadler of New York Educated... Columbia University, Fordham University and Fordham University School of Law....

He chastised one of his colleagues for mentioning God and the Bible during the House debate over the Equality Act Thursday, saying: "God's will is no concern of this Congress."

Rep. Greg Stuebe, Stuebe – Educated... Fredric G. Levin College of Law & Florida University R-Fla., said in his remarks on the House floor that the Equality Act is in opposition to Scripture.

"The gender confusion that exists in our culture today is a clear rejection of God's good design. Whenever a nation's laws no longer reflect the standards of God, that nation is in rebellion against Him and will inevitably bear the consequences," Stuebe said.

"And I think we are seeing the consequences of rejecting God in our country today. And this bill speaks directly against what is laid out in Scripture," he declared.

Stuebe--- well educated and from a biblical perspective wise.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS CONFERENCE — Ligonier Ministries – The holy character of God is the absolute standard of right and wrong. And He has spoken. Therefore, to reject Him and abandon His Word is to undermine the foundation of morality. How can Christians live with integrity as we engage a world where God is hated, immorality is celebrated, and the truth is suppressed?

EXPERIENCE — does not negate the need for Godly wisdom.

Wisconsin basketball team — experienced, upper-classmen been there done that experience as far as March madness is concerned. Experienced expressed itself Friday afternoon as they walloped North Carolina in the NCAA tournament....

Personal Application — as a Christian you can be wise. All it takes is a disciplined prayer life and a humble submission to the need for God's wisdom.

## II. WISDOM FROM ABOVE DEFINED AND DISPENSED

**A. Wisdom from above cannot help but be profound while at the same time practical.** It can be defined and experienced or expressed in a multitude of ways.

Knowing when to be silent and when to speak up is wisdom from above.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; When he closes his lips, he is considered prudent.

Proverbs 26:4–5 ---- 4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Or you will also be like him. 5 Answer a fool as his folly deserves, That he not be wise in his own eyes.

Swallowing one's pride is an act of wisdom from above.

Proverbs 26:12 ---- Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Wisdom may be defined as the "practical use of knowledge."

Wisdom may be defined as "the ability to discern God's hand in human circumstances and apply heavenly judgment to earthly situations." (John Blanchard)

Wisdom is doing the right thing the right way.

**B. Wisdom from above is a gift from the Lord which He is willing to dispense liberally to all who ask for it through prayer saturated with faith.**

Why we Christians do not pray any more than we do in light of the fact that the Lord is willing to dispense His wisdom liberally is an enigma to me.

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown By  
Sam Walter Foss (1858–1911)

attitude, Is down upon his  
knees."

"THE PROPER way for a man to  
pray," Said Deacon Lemuel  
Keyes, "And the only proper

"No, I should say the way to  
pray," Said Reverend Doctor  
Wise, "Is standing straight, with

outstretched arms, And rapt and  
upturned eyes.”

“Oh no; no, no,” said Elder Slow,  
“Such posture is too proud: A  
man should pray with eyes fast  
closed And head contritely  
bowed.”

“It seems to me his hands should  
be Austerely clasped in front,  
With both thumbs pointing  
toward the ground,” Said  
Reverend Doctor Blunt.

“Las’ year I fell in Hodgkin’s well  
Head first,” said Cyrus  
Brown, “With both my heels a-  
stickin’ up, My head a-pointing  
down;

“An’ I made a prayer right then  
an’ there— Best prayer I ever  
said, The prayingest prayer I ever  
prayed, A-standing on my head.”

Note: Difficult times should not  
necessarily change our prayer  
life. However, we do not always  
pray as we should except when  
life has us standing on our heads  
in difficulty.

Conclusion: