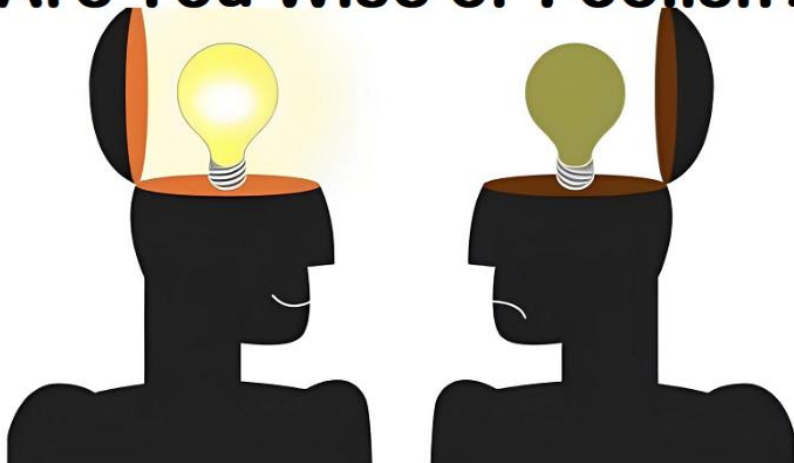


Are You Wise or Foolish?



Text: NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Are you wise or foolish?

- Let's learn *the meaning of those terms!*
- Let's consider *some instructive Bible passages!*

1. **The Meanings of Wise and Foolish:**

- a. Wise (Greek σοφός – pronounced *sophos*): It means *skillful, clever, learned*. The wise are characterized by the ability to use knowledge for correct behavior or human skill (BW, Friberg).
- b. Foolish (Greek μωρός – pronounced *moros*): It means *stupid*. Foolish people are intellectually weak, irrational, or lacking in foresight – *speaking or acting without thinking it through in advance* (BW, Friberg).

2. **Some Outcomes of Wise and Foolish:**

a. The Physical Versus the Spiritual:

- i. **The foolish:** Live for this world!
- ii. **The wise:** Have ➡ *less and less* concern about physical things and ➡ *more and more* concern about spiritual things!
- iii. **Romans 8:5-6** “...those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the **flesh is death**, but the mind set on the **Spirit is life and peace...**”

b. Same Knowledge, Different Outcomes: Jesus said in **Matthew 7:24-27:** “...**everyone who hears these words of Mine** and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. **Everyone who hears these words of Mine** and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-- and great was its fall.” // Did you notice the difference?

c. It is critical to hear, understand, believe, and apply God's word: **James 1:22:** “...prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

3. OT – Proverbs 9:1-9:

- a. A Wonderful Invitation – vv. 4-6: “Whoever is naïve [*easily deceived*], let him turn in here!” To him who lacks understanding [wisdom] says, “Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake [*abandon*] your folly [*foolish ways*] and live [*stay alive*], And proceed in the way of understanding [*insight, awareness*].”
- i. God is inviting everyone: To ▶learn His word and ▶be saved through Jesus.
 - ii. Many young people are not paying attention: According to some Barna research in 2016:
 1. **25%** of US teens (13-17 years old) read the Bible *once a week or more* 😊. Every day = 3% 😞.
 2. **75%** read the Bible *from once a month to never* 😞.¹
- b. A Thought-Provoking Statement – v. 10: “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom...”
- i. When we have a healthy fear of the LORD: ▶We respect His power and ▶trust in Him as our God – *resulting in willing obedience to His will.*
 - ii. Moses said to the people: **Exodus 20:20**: “God has come... in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not sin.”

4. EP – Ephesians 5:6-21: Instructions for believers:

- a. Be Careful – vv. 15-16: “...be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.”

¹ <https://www.barna.com/research/top-10-findings-teens-bible/>

- i. Wise people make the most of their time *by focusing on eternal souls.*
- ii. **Proverbs 11:30:** “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.”
- b. **Understand – v. 17:** “...do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
 - i. The foolish live for this fallen world.
 - ii. *The wise seek to know and do the will of the Lord!*
- c. **Be Filled – v. 18:** “...do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation [*“the act of one who has abandoned himself to reckless immoral behavior” (BW, Friberg)*], but be filled with the Spirit...” // When we are filled with the Spirit, we will walk in agreement with the Spirit!
- d. **Give Thanks – v. 20:** “...always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God...” // Even on our worst days, *we have countless reasons to cry out to God with thanksgiving*, so let us ♦keep seeing our blessings and ♦keep giving thanks to God!

Let Us Pray: **Dear Father**, we thank You for ♦the wisdom of your word, ♦the living, dying, and rising of Your Son, and ♦the eternal gifts You have showered upon us, such as full forgiveness, membership in Your kingdom, and the coming bliss of living in Your eternal presence. **Now**, ♦keep us wise and ♦work through us to draw others to abandon their foolish ways and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord!

Website: [≡](#); **YouTube and Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”

Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230