

8/16/2009

**THE PSALM AND THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Psalm 111**

Lay Minister: 1 Praise the LORD.

**People: I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

Lay Minister: 2 Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

**People: 3 Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.**

Lay Minister: 4 He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

**People: 5 He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.**

Lay Minister: 6 He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.

**People: 7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.**

Lay Minister: 8 They are steadfast for ever and ever,

**People: done in faithfulness and uprightness.**

Lay Minister: 9 He provided redemption for his people;

**People: he ordained his covenant forever-- holy and awesome is his name.**

Lay Minister: 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

**People: all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

Lay Minister: We begin our worship in the wisdom of faith and fear in the true God.

**People: We begin in the name of God the Father, and in the name of God the Son, and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY** Almighty God, to know and believe in You is everlasting life. Bless us that we may know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life. Bless us that we may find the wisdom of following in His steps in the way that leads to life eternal. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 9:1-10**

*(Through the writer of Proverbs God offers an invitation to eat of wisdom and not folly)*

1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.

2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.

4 "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.

5 "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.

7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.

8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.  
9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

### **THE EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 5:6-21**

*(God's children are called to walk as children of light in a world of sin and darkness.)*

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

7 Therefore do not be partners with them.

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

10 and find out what pleases the Lord.

11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise,**

**16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

**18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.**

**19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,**

**20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### **THE GOSPEL LESSON John 6:51-69**

*(Jesus shares difficult teachings about Himself. These words about Jesus are received by faith alone.)*

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

53 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.

57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"

61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"

62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!

63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

67 "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

## **THE SERMON      God's Help to Live Wisely in a Foolish World      Ephesians 5**

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise,**

**16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

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**18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.**

**19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,**

**20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

INTRO - Recently I had a math problem to solve in regard to my lawn. I'm sure you've had household math problems. I wanted to fertilize my lawn. I wanted to know how many bags of fertilizer to buy. I divided the area of my lawn by the area covered by a bag of fertilizer. That told me how many bags to buy.

But, imagine that instead of using math knowledge, I went to the poets. I read some Homer, some Shakespeare, some Tennyson, some Dickinson. With the wisdom gained from the poets I tried to solve the math problem. It wouldn't work because I was going to the wrong source of knowledge. You might say such efforts would be foolish.

I. That is often the way our world works.

A. God in heaven, the Lord above, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, He is the creator and Lord of all things.

1. God made the universe.

2. The world works as God intends, and as God allows.

3. In our Old Testament lesson. Verse 10 says, **10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding**

4. In other words, because God is the creator and Lord of the Universe, if we want to live wisely we fear, respect, know, believe in, follow and obey the Lord.

B. So, why do so many people go somewhere other than to God for the answers to life's deep questions?

1. Psalm 14 says in verse 1, **The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."**

2. I served as chaplain again at the hospital this week. I have been serving the Lord and the community in that way for 18 years. Every time I go to visit people who are ill and offer to pray for them, someone will say, "No thanks, I'm not religious." Medicine helps. But, what do we miss when we leave God out? - The wisdom and love of the creator of the universe, and our bodies.

3. People make decisions about relationships forgetting the wisdom and direction of the Lord. Our emotions of love, or even anger, can seem more real at the time than God's direction. But, what do we miss when we leave God out? - the wisdom to love others as God has loved us!

4. Today there is all sorts of media that leads people to focus on what seems cool, or sexy, or different, or young, that totally leaves out any concern of what God would direct His people to do. I've seen some of this in flipping channels. When lives are lived trying to be popular and leaving God out, What do we miss?

5. On March 27, 1989, on Good Friday, Captain Joseph Hazelwood was impaired. He pushed forward anyway with the Exxon Valdez. We all know the results - an oil spill that hurt Prince William Sound. When people push forward on their own, without the God and Creator of all things, it is like they are impaired, and this can lead to disaster in our lives.

C. Such lack of wisdom may simply seem like unfortunate life choices.

1. However, in our epistle lesson verses 15 and 16 say, **15 Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

2. The choices of leaving God out of our lives are not just unwise and foolish, by ignoring the creator and Lord of all things, such choice make the days evil.

3. And, by ignoring the Lord of life, people risk losing life.

II. If I want to understand a math question, I need to use math. If I want to understand life, and I live in a foolish world, an evil world. I need help and wisdom. I need to turn to the author of life.

A. That is why we are told in our Epistle lesson, **15 Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

1. God's people are called to live wisely.

2. Verse 17 tells us how we do that, **17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

3. Because God is the Lord of the universe, understanding His will can give us wisdom in living, wisdom that will help our lives now and eternally.

B. Other parts of Scripture tell us that God's wisdom may seem foolish.

1. 1 Corinthians 1: says, **22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.** The cross of Christ may seem foolish. But, by the cross, in love, God forgives foolish sinners.

2. 2 Timothy 3:14-15 says, **14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you WISE for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.** Some think the Bible is simply old myths. But, wisdom is found in Scriptures and shows when people trust, not themselves, but Jesus for eternal life, and this life.

C. The rest of the Epistle also tells us how to find God's will.

1. **17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2. God calls us to *be filled with the spirit as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, . . . giving thanks to God the Father for everything*

3. Worship is a way to understand God's will, and a way to gain wisdom.

4. Sunday School and Bible Classes start soon again. Studying Scripture and knowing God's will, is a way to gain wisdom.

5. This seems old fashioned. But, turning to God and learning gives life wisdom.

CONCLUSION - Sometimes even the foolish may be wise, if they follow the Lord. In our Gospel lesson for today we hear the words of Peter. Peter often acted rashly, and appeared

foolish. Yet, in today's lesson, as others were leaving Jesus and he asked the disciples if they would leave too, Peter replied, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.**" Peter was finding that following his ideas got him in trouble. He didn't even know where Jesus was leading. Jesus was actually leading toward more difficulty. But, following Jesus was the wisest thing Peter ever did.

Our epistle lesson tells us, **Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise,** The wisest thing we can do in this foolish age is to know, believe, and follow our Lord.

THANKS

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traveling

CHURCH

Elders' Meal  
Church Picnic  
FINANCES

Country

Serving  
Peter  
Justin Gallegos  
Zach  
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