

WISDOM TO LIVE BY 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

THERE ARE TWO OPPOSING WISDOMS. GOD'S WISDOM AND MAN'S WISDOM CANNOT CO-EXIST. THEY ARE MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE.

I. HOW THE TWO WISDOMS DIFFER IN CONTENT

Human wisdom represents any number of ideations that exalt **human discovery or human rationalism over divine revelation**.

Modern examples:

- 1) Naturalism and Evolution
- 2) Materialism
- 3) Mystical Spiritualism

(James 3:15-16)

¹⁵ Such 'wisdom' does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. ¹⁶ For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice."

God's wisdom centers on the reality of a personal, sovereign, infinite God.

God's wisdom tells us who we are, why we are here, and what the end of all things is.

God's wisdom is His own revelation. Man's wisdom is his own self-discovery through rationalism, experience, and science and his own autonomy from any superior being.

II. HOW THE TWO WISDOMS DIFFER IN WORTH

The spiritually lost person naturally evaluates God's wisdom by his own wisdom.

- 1) The lost pagan judges God's wisdom in Christ as "foolishness." (vv. 18, 23).
- 2) The lost Jew regards God's wisdom as a "stumbling block" (v. 23).

God makes man's wisdom "foolish." (v. 20)

III. HOW THE TWO WISDOMS DIFFER IN OUTCOME

Look at the tragic outcome of man's wisdom:

- 1) **It does not bring anyone into a transformational relationship with God.** (v. 21)
- 2) **It leaves its adherents in a state of "perishing."** (v. 18)

Look at the transforming outcome of God's wisdom: It is the power of God to save from perishing those who believe. (vv. 18, 22)

THE FATAL WEAKNESS OF HUMAN WISDOM: **IT CANNOT DEAL WITH THE DEPRAVITY OF THE HUMAN HEART.**

EVERYONE HAS THE CHOICE: **WHICH WISDOM FORMS THE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR LIFE.**