

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 29

2021

Who Is A Wise Man?

I venture to say that we would all like to be considered a wise man, so, let's go to the Bible as the Bible speaks of a wise man as...

One Who Fears The Lord.

Solomon, the wise man himself penned, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction"* (Proverbs 1:7). You see, when men and women learn to respect the Lord, they have learned the most important form of wisdom. Therefore, fear God and keep His commandments (Ecclesiastes 12:13), and be a wise man.

One Who Hears and Obeys.

Jesus said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21). Jesus would then go on to say, *"Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock..."* (Matthew 7:24). You see, a wise man is not only one who hears the word of God, but he is also one who obeys God's word.

One Who Restrains His lips.

In Proverbs 10:19 we read, *"In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise."* You see, a wise man will not foolishly speak just to be speaking, but rather he will speak when he has something worth speaking about. Therefore, let us all always be mindful of these instructive words of David, *"Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit"* (Psalm 34:13).

One Who Carefully Chooses His Friends.

In 1 Corinthians 15:33 Paul wrote, *"Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits."* Unfortunately, not everyone around us will be a good influence to us. Therefore, we need to be cautious in whom we choose to spend valuable time with. Let us always be mindful of these words of wisdom, *"The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray"* (Proverbs 12:26). Also, always remember, *"He who walks with wise men will be wise"* (Proverbs 13:20).

One Who Shows His Works.

James asked, *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom"* (James 3:13). You see, a wise man is one who will humbly exercise good judgment, and he will likewise let his light shine before others. Be a wise man, and humbly let your light so shine, for Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

One Who Is Increasing In Learning.

Solomon revealed, *"A wise man will hear and increase in learning..."* (Proverbs 1:5). Friends, it is very important that we all seek to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18). Therefore, be a wise man, and always strive to increase in learning.

One Who Wins Souls.

We read in Proverbs 11:30, *"The fruit of righteousness is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."* Now the question is, are you engaged in winning-souls for Jesus? If not, why not? For Jesus said, in John 4:35 *"...lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!"* You see, the spiritual fields are ripe and ready for harvest, but it is up to us to open up our eyes and to take advantage of the opportunities to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to others. Therefore, be a wise man, and be a soul-winner for Jesus.

My friends, may we all strive to obtain and maintain the characteristics of a wise man. For, it is far better to be wise, than to be foolish!

✍️ Brad Phillips

Garbage In Garbage Out

Tuesday morning is trash day at our house. I usually wheel it out to the street Monday evening. When I do this chore, I often think of the phrase: Garbage in garbage out.

Some philosophically once wrote: “The human brain is somewhat like a giant smelter. Contrasting ideas can be thrown in, and some type of finished product will surely emerge.” How important it is to make sure we put the right stuff into the personal computers we call our brains! If one fills his mind with garbage, it will affect him in bad ways. For sure, if one puts garbage into his mind, garbage will come out!

Right-thinking is so fundamental to the pattern of one’s character. If we are to act rightly, we must think clearly. For example, another thinker wrote that one who thinks without acting is like a hunter who aims his gun but never fires it; and one who acts without thinking is like a hunter who fires his gun without aiming!

Phil. 4:8 offers some guidelines as to what one should think about. The list includes things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, and Paul says, “think or meditate on these things.” So, our thinking should be good and uplifting, in contrast with that which is sordid and degrading. Solomon penned at Prov. 4: 23, “Watch over your heart (mind) with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.” Further on, the wise king added, Prov. 23:7, “For as he thinks in his mind, so is he.”

Our Savior stated, “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matt. 12:34). He also said: “For from within, out of the heart of men, evil thoughts proceed, fornications,

thefts, murders, adulteries, coveting, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, railing, pride, foolishness: all these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.” (Matt. 7: 21-23).

You may be thinking: “I can’t control my thoughts. Bad ideas slip into my mind, and there is nothing I can do about it.” Another person suggested that “...impure thoughts are like birds. You can’t keep them from flying over your head, but you CAN keep them from building nests in your hair!” We all have thoughts we should not have.

The question is not “will we have them?” but “will we dwell on them?” We must be careful what we put into, and what we allow to stay in our minds.

✍ Gary Fiscus

Note

Our upcoming Gospel Meeting is scheduled for September 12-17
Speaker: James Hahn
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, and 5:00 pm
Monday-Friday: 7:00 pm

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

Brad Phillips..... (765) 720-2816