

THE EVIL OF WORLDLY WISDOM

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The Psalmist explains how it will be possible for us to be in Heaven, when the roll is called.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

The first major thing that reminds us that our time on earth is short and that we must return Home to Heaven is numbering our days.

The Home to which we must return is the presence of God. In considering this verse, one finds that it is not the habit of man to number his days. Man's wish and prayer is not to die, but to live long and continue on and on without an end. But on the contrary, the Psalmist begged God to remind us to number our days.

Some make it a habit to mark their birthdays with parties. Despite these celebrations, they hardly think about when they will leave this earth, or where they will go, when their life is over. This is an indication that we are not all preparing to return to the Home above. Yet, this is a matter of necessity for all. Irrespective of your age, whether thirty, fifty or eighty years, you have to consider your end. We ought to know that one day, we shall be no more, we shall close our eyes finally and shall never be seen again in this world. Friend, when you close your eyes here on earth, where do you think you will go? Is the thought about Home in your heart? Do you ponder about it at all?

The same wish is expressed by David in Psalm 39 verse 4:

"LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."

The above verse is equally a prayer. If we sincerely consider it, we shall realise that it is not what a man can accomplish by his own effort. Why? Job exposes the secret to us:

"Now a thing was secretly brought to me, and mine ear received a little thereof.

"In thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth on men,

"Fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones to shake.

"Then a spirit passed before my face; the hair of my flesh stood up:

"It stood still, but I could not discern the form thereof: an image was before mine eyes, there was silence, and I heard a voice, saying,

"Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?

"Behold, he put no trust in his servants; and his angels he charged with folly:

"How much less in them that dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth?

"They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it.

"Doth not their excellency which is in them go away? they die, even without wisdom" (Job 4:12-21).

The above reveals that man does not think about the day he will return Home, or the day he will bid the world farewell. He does not remember that the world is not an eternal home, so, he does not number his days as one who will one day return to the Heavenly Home. It is not man's practice to do so because his mind is warped. Man has a broken, limited and an imperfect mind, irrespective of whether he is educated or highly placed. Job tells us that the mind which we esteem, cherish, and think is very intelligent, has been brought low and rendered of no value. The confirmation of this is in the Old Testament, and in Paul's writing in the New Testament.

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness" (1 Corinthians 3:19).

Even though it can be argued that many of the useful things in the world have been invented with wisdom, yet, this is man's consideration. The Creator of wisdom, Who Himself is Wisdom personified, is the One talking about the mind of man. which Job refers to by asking, **"Doth not their excellency which is in them go away?"** Since the excellency which is in them has gone away, they just die without wisdom. Therefore, we ought to know man's condition so that we may realise how we should number our days. It is because God has revealed this to the Psalmist, that he offered this prayer:

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Today, people only seek daily to excel in eating, drinking, dressing, merry-making and corruption. They do not seek to be godly, neither do they seek to live in love with one another. Then, what kind of wisdom do they have? They have the wisdom of hatred, cheating, murder, wickedness and craftiness. Is that wisdom? No! That is not wisdom. That is wickedness! That was what God saw about the first world when man had corrupted his ways. As a result of their wickedness, they were full of trouble, evil, all un- righteousness, murder and bloodshed. They behaved wickedly, irrespective of their status - learned or ignorant, politician or the masses, the ruled or the rulers - because they did not have the wisdom of God.

Today, in the streets people are unable to move freely in peace. Whatever direction we face, our hearts are filled with anxiety that we are being watched by those who may overtake and snatch our cars. We are afraid even at home. When we go out, we are not sure we shall return to find our belongings as we left them. When we go to bed at night, we are anxious, not knowing what may befall us. And when we move along the street with our possessions, we are afraid we may be attacked and be dispossessed of our belongings by robbers. When goods arrive in the country, the goods may never reach the rightful owners, because some people might intercept them. They claim the goods illegally and carry them away. Our life is full of problems and confusion. Your money may not be safe even in the bank, because of some corrupt individuals. This is because these people are filled with worldly wisdom.

People in authority plot and scheme against one another. They rebel against their leaders or superior officers, so, there is no peace or rest of mind. But these acts of theirs are wrongly referred to as wisdom. Some would say, "We shall topple you." Some others would say, "It will be impossible for us to be toppled." Both groups quote the laws. What are they

using the laws for? To prove their wisdom. Is that the wisdom of God? The wisdom that man has is not the wisdom that seeks the welfare of his neighbours, nor the wisdom that makes him live peaceably with them. It is not the wisdom that shows his neighbours the way of release and deliverance from evil, fornication and sin. It is not the wisdom that helps the neighbours know the true and righteous God, so that they can be free from the bondage of sin and be delivered from destruction and distress. The wisdom that man has is entirely contrary. God tells us that He has made man's wisdom foolishness, because man has disregarded Him.

David makes us to understand that: **"Man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish."** A person who does not know God nor follow all His perfect will has the wisdom that is leading him towards perdition, unless he repents.

Are those things which have been listed above wisdom? Do you refer to the customs and practices of people of our day as wisdom? Do you think the bad things you read from books or which you learn from others are wisdom or diplomacy? Oh, the evil the television has set before man. People have bought the television sets with their own money, and have used them to entertain their children. These children, after watching evil films or movies, would dip their hands into their pockets and point guns at their parents. A little child would ask his mother and father to put up their hands, and the parents would do so, enjoying the game. These children, to the chagrin of their parents, follow that wicked way of life. Sometimes, in broad daylight, people would be accosted by these disobedient children, who would demand that they give them what they have in their pockets, surrender their possessions, and go empty-handed! This is the wisdom of the world. These are the tactics the robbers use today. Would you call this wisdom?

God says He has made the wisdom of the world foolishness. Yet, the children of men remain in it, not seeking the wisdom of God but seeking foolishness! Eventually, after they have robbed here, killed there, and heaped the loot together, they die like beasts. They die daily without wisdom. Oh! What a pity! There is no thought in man to say, "Come, let us reason together. What can be the way out of all these things? What can put an end to all these problems so that they don't occur again?" There is nobody who considers it. Oh! the folly of man's wisdom!

The only way out, which God has provided, is the way of repentance from sin. It is only God Who can transform the soul of the sinner. The wisdom of God is the Word of God. It is that Word that can save from foolishness. If you come to God in prayer, He will give you Heavenly wisdom. The Spirit of God, which He will give you, will cause you to do the right every time.