

Get Wisdom (Theme for 2017)

Prologue: Each Sunday of the year, with a few exceptions, the assembly of the saints began with a facet or tenet of the theme: Get Wisdom! Each one has a Scripture passage with the words wisdom or wise in it. More about wisdom can then still be said, if other bible verses are used and if the time restraint to the Sundays of the one year is taken away. May God bless you as you read and get wisdom.

1. "Get Wisdom" Is A BIBLICAL Exhortation

Proverbs 4:5, 7-8...*Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. — Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her.*

The title of our theme is not a "preacher-made-up" thing. It is verbatim found in Scripture. Get Wisdom! And wisdom will not just infuse itself into you without effort on your part...at least not much or well. It should be sought after.."Go get it!" We go after lots of things in life, but make sure wisdom is not overlooked and when made your endeavor, make it a principle or primary pursuit in life. We will say this a lot over the weeks of this year. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

2. The Fear Of The Lord Is The BEGINNING Of Wisdom

Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 9:10...*The fear of the Lord is the BEGINNING of wisdom.*

Before we do much by way of getting wisdom, thoughts that are good and constructive, we must begin with fear of God...fear of His power against us if He is ignored, and reverence of Him and anything He has to say. Amen? — And why

should it be the basis for getting wisdom, for it endures forever, unlike wisdom originating elsewhere. Sure, abiding enduring wisdom starts with acknowledging God in all our pursuits. This is what will produce good understanding of all kinds of things. Amen? — So, what do we need to get? Say it. Get Wisdom!

3. Wisdom Best Comes From GOD. ASK Him.

James 1:5...If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Wisdom best comes from God. And He has promised to give it if asked. So, let us ask. Ask God everyday. Father in heaven, give to me your humble servant, wisdom. And He will do it. He will give it and give it in a huge measure. Not a smidgen, not a crumb, not a little, but abundantly...liberally. Yes, He will. For He has promised and He cannot lie. And God does not in one little bit mind us asking for wisdom. It is with no reproachful, disapproving, regret that it has come to this, that we ask Him for wisdom. He Wants us to ask Him for wisdom so bad...soooo bad. So, let us GET WISDOM and first by asking God...everyday. — Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

4. Wisdom And Knowledge Are NOT THE SAME Thing

I Corinthians 12:8...To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit.

Wisdom and knowledge are not the same thing. They are often mentioned together in Scripture, and often they go hand in hand, but there is a difference. Knowledge is information & facts, understanding & realizing, to perceive & recognize. — Wisdom is insight & perception, analysis & application, discernment, prudence & expediency. — And so, in order to get wisdom, I need to seek

knowledge also, but do not make the mistake of thinking you are smart, you are wise. Or that someone you admire for their high IQ, are necessarily wise. Many people who are geniuses, have degrees from schools of higher education, or maybe even naturally blessed with great minds, are not wise. For instance, the bible says, the fool has said in his heart there is not God. In this world in which we live, many who are very intelligent, say there is no God. That is not wise. — And so, in all our intellectual gains and prowess, let us not forget to get wisdom. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

5. NOT EVERYTHING That Passes For Wisdom IS Wisdom That Matters

James 3:15...This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

To be worldly wise, is not where we need to stop. Some worldly wisdom is ok, I guess...as it assists man walking through his days under the sun...but much of it is demonic...originating with the lies of the Devil...And that wisdom ought to be shunned and disregarded. And so, be careful in heeding wisdom that cannot be supported by Scripture. No matter how wise it sounds. Let me share one more verse with you along these lines...Colossians 2:23...*These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.*

See what I mean? There is a lot of thinking coming from men that seems wise, but in fact or truth is not. So what is a poor boy gonna have to do? How will you and I have to proceed in getting wisdom? Very carefully. And very bible oriented. And generally skeptical of anything wise looking that can't be backed by the Holy Bible. But, get wisdom...get good heavenly wisdom we must. And say it with me please... Get Wisdom!

6. Wisdom Must Be HUMBLY Received

Luke 7:35...*Wisdom is justified of all her children.*

At first reading this might seem a head scratcher...what does Jesus mean when he says, wisdom is justified of all her children? But, think with me just a minute. In the verses just prior, Jesus notes that folks think one thing or another about John the Baptist or Jesus, and demonstrate their folly in the duplicity of what they say. We human beings are often so hypocritical, so inconsistent, so selective in our indignation. We speak out of both sides of our mouth. But, then Jesus adds this pearl...wisdom's children rightly know wisdom when they see or hear it.

By calling them and hopefully us, children, we pick up on something. Wisdom that is true and right is going to be perceived and known when we are like children, submitting gladly to what ever is spoken of God and according to His oracles. Whether that makes human sense or not, doesn't enter into it. Just as earthly children when small say everything Dad says is right...so do God's children of any age...God is right, He is justified in anything He says. Let us as little children get that wisdom and justify it, too. — Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

7. Get Wisdom. It Will Help You DISCERN Good And Evil

Hebrews 5:14...*But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

God has placed within us the ability or skill to make discernments. This is not special to Christians, but to all His children. The KJV calls this our senses...and it appears in the original Greek only in this verse. What does this verse say about our senses? Exercise and train it through practice continually, so that the solid food of the Word of God can be chewed on and digested, enabling you to make

distinctions of what is good and evil. You see, not everything that is good or evil is spelt out in black and white on pages of Scriptures. And that is how God wants it. He says...you decide. I'll give you meaty principles and now you make application to 101 different scenarios or matters. This is getting wisdom. So train yourself in the word. Read it. Study it. Discuss it. Think about it. Pray about it. And God will bless you with wisdom from above to decide as you grow...this is good...this evil. This is according to God's word. This is not. — Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

8. God-originated Wisdom Is First PURE

James 3:17...The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Wisdom from heaven is first going to be pure, without admixture...the mixing in of some worldly philosophy or human thinking. It is pure...without any tarnishing of time and space. The wisdom God approves must FIRST be pure...before anything else is said or done. God's holiness does not allow for even the slightest hint of change, the faintest shadow of turning or the smallest of variations. Man's wisdom...that is totally different. We must get wisdom from above. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

9. God-Originated Wisdom Is Big On PEACE

James 3:17...The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

If we are truly going to be wise, then it will be seen in heavy emphasis on getting along agreeably with everyone as much as depends on us. Whether that be family, friends, brethren, civil powers, co-workers, even enemies...right thinking will be seen in patching up conflicts, handling volatile situations with kids gloves,

regarding our own opinions as just my two cents and open to opposing viewpoints, and if need be cutting others a lot of slack, overcoming evil with good, and most sincerely treating everyone with fairness. Wisdom from above cannot compromise purity to do this, but that is about the only exception. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

10. We Will Get Wisdom When We Are OPEN To Other's ADVICE

Proverbs 12:15...*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.*

We do ourselves no favors to think of ourselves more highly than others. To think of our wisdom as superior to other's wisdom. Our opinions are facts, while other's are often nonsense. Now, true we may have better thoughts than others sometimes, but we must not be so confident in our minds that we close out being able to learn from others. Good advice can come from anyone, anywhere...and the Lord has instructed us in the bible that it is fool who is always thinking he is right, but it is a wise man, a man with his head screwed on straight that will always be open to other's opinions, advice and suggestions. And this is one way we get wisdom. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

11. Bite your TONGUE...A Lot

Proverbs 10:19...*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

If you want to be wise and prudent, then bite your tongue...learn to bridle your speech. Do we speak our mind...all the time? We are being foolish. There is just no other way to say it...no other way it can be. "You can be silent and thought a fool, or open your mouth and remove all doubt." The fool is known by his many words.

— In the book of James we read that our religion is useless if we do not do this. It is God's will... So, let us bite that tongue of ours more than we do...Let US be wise! Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

12. LEAD Others To The Truth

Proverbs 11:30...*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; And he that is wise wins souls.*

This is what a wise person does. Be a fool and don't. One thing that makes it wise, is that it complies with God's instructions that we do. Now, see how the beginning of wisdom is "Fear God"? I highly respect God's will for me and so I am wise to then do what he says. And he says win others to His way. — But, it is also good for ME, not just the recipient of my efforts to win him to God. I am made better as a person. I am made better in sharing the good news. I am strengthened in my own faith when I share it with another. Now, that is wise. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

13. Ladies, KEEP A Good House

Proverbs 14:1...*The wisest of women builds her house, but folly with her own hands tears it down.*

It makes good sense. And that is what wisdom is...good sense. While on the other hand, foolishness is non-sense. Who is the woman who lets her house get run down? A foolish woman. Who builds it up and maintains it well? The woman of good discretion. Who is a homeMAKER? The wise wife and mother. She builds and makes her home the best she can make it. Ladies, be wise!! And everyone say it with me...Get Wisdom!

14. FORESEE Possible Evil And Avoid It

Proverbs 27:12...*A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.*

It is a silly person who either **naively** gets caught up in evil before he realizes it...or just does not see the wisdom in doing so. Oh, the evils that could be avoided if we would practice this bit of wisdom. Not all temptation, nor all sin can be avoided, but much of it can...and the wise person will. Let US be wise! Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

15. Do Not Get ANGRY FAST

Proverbs 14:29...*Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.*

It is not wrong to eventually get angry...at least about some things...but it is always wrong to get angry fast, to burst a blood vessel getting mad...to have an outburst of wrath...about whatever...justifiable or not. Now, I know what you are thinking...this cannot be controlled...if you get mad, you get mad. But, this would be incorrect. Getting mad quickly...blowing up at situations shows you a fool. You see, contemplative, wise, reasoning by its very nature, is pondering thoughtfully the situation before responding, not emotionally reacting first. Friends, are we fast or slow to get mad? Slow? Good. Let US be wise!! — Say it with me, Get Wisdom!

16. Start Looking UP

Proverbs 15:24...*The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.*

Pressing onward and upward toward heaven is a sign of wisdom. Prudent thinking will motivate us to look up at the sun, moon and stars and see evidence of God's handiwork. Wisdom will motivate us to look up in faith and see Jesus standing at the right hand of God and calling us there. And the prudent minded person is one who knows this is the best way to avoid Sheol below, the grave and hell of Satan at last. How about you? Is this true of you? Are you being wise or foolish? Let US be wise!! Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

17. Listen Well To Your DAD

Proverbs 29:15...The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Responding well to the instruction and discipline of your father gives wisdom. Maybe it gives pain, too...but it also gives wisdom. And I may be too young when it is happening to realize that. But, now that I am old, I know it restrained my foolishness in a way I am bettered. I think better...I have prudent thoughts...in other words, I have wisdom...all because my father spanked me. And we can express wisdom by saying amen. Or we can show out foolishness by disallowing the merit of corporal punishment. God says it produces wisdom. Foolish man says I disagree. Say amen. And say it with me...Get Wisdom!

18. HANG OUT With Them Who Are Wise

Proverbs 13:20...Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

We humans are influential people and influenced people. Not one or the other, but both. This is the way God has made us. And so, if we are going to get wise, get are head screwed on straight, not be a foolish thinker, then it is made to happen

by making friends of wise people, picking their brains, hanging with them alot. That's just the truth. Don't deny it. Don't deny yourself of this opportunity. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

19. You Have To WANT It Bad

Proverbs 2:3-6...Yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom...

Not only will wisdom that matters not come without effort...it won't come without MUCH effort...earnest longing....intense desire. Now, do you see why God says, the greatest commandment is loving ME with all your being? Tremendous caring for God with everything I humanly can muster, is key to everything else expected of me by God...including getting my head screwed on straight, thinking soundly, getting wisdom. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

20. Wisdom Is A Way Of ESCAPE

Proverbs 2:10-12...wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil.

Wisdom is good for a lot reasons...but one primary one is escaping evil. You remember that well-known verse that says God will not permit us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear, but will with temptations provide a way of escape? (I Cor. 10). One of those ways is a good mind. He blesses us with good thinking in wisdom. Good discretion. Good discernment. And so what does that say is often our trouble in persistent falling into sin? We aren't thinking well, if at all.

We are reacting, not "pro-acting"...we are just not thinking things through. Is this right or wrong? Is this expedient or not at all helpful? And What will the outcome of this be? So get wisdom to help deliver us from evil. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

21. Wisdom EXCEEDS Earthly Wealth In Value

Proverbs 3:13-15...Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding, for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Anyone want some silver? Some gold? How about a handful of rubies? Nobody going to pass on that offer? Everyone wants all that they can get, right? How about wisdom? Any takers? Wisdom sees the value of wisdom over any and everything we might treasure or hold dear. Wisdom to gain more wisdom as it appreciates rather than depreciating it extreme worth. And did you notice in the reading how it is the profit or gain that comes from silver or gold. And just so, the gain from possessing wisdom will out perform that of earthly wealth. Wealth can benefit you a lot...but wisdom even more. So, say it with me....Get Wisdom!

22. Wisdom Totally ENHANCES Your Life

Proverbs 3:16-18...Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.

Our cameras have a button for enhancement of the pictures we take. It makes them better in various ways. Life here on earth is a blessing all by itself...but

wisdom can enhance it...tremendously. It will help extend your lifespan...it will improve opportunities for earning money and being respected by people...it produces more pleasant times and peaceful times...and enriches life like a fruitful tree. But, we have to retain and keep it for this to be so. And before we can retain it, we have to get it. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

23. God Has Shown How POWERFUL Wisdom Can Be

Proverbs 3:19-20...The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens; by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.

Do you wonder just how much an asset wisdom will be to you? Wonder no more. God created, set in order and continues to sustain the entire physical universe, including this earth on which we stand...all by wisdom. Don't worry, our gains in getting wisdom will never max out...our getting wisdom (if from above) will never disappoint us later. We are never, ever going to regret the attention we give to getting wisdom. Just write it in stone...Wisdom will never disappoint. Oh, the great things we could do and can do and will do, if we will but get wisdom. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

24. Wisdom Is ADORNMENT

Proverbs 3:21-22...My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

Solomon presents wisdom as a necklace...a beautiful adornment of your neck. Both men and women wear golden chains, with possibly pendants, charms or precious stones and we feel attractive, or more confident or making a statement. Or maybe

it is a reminder of something special to us. All of this will work. Wisdom from God does adorn us. Scriptures will later depict Jesus as being worn as garment. And His saints are dressed in what robes. Wisdom accomplishes so much, but it also helps us look more presentable, feel more confident, be more secure and much more. Truly it is life for our soul. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

25. Wisdom Is A WOMAN

Proverbs 4:6...Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

Wisdom is not literally a woman, but it is personified. Ships are often referred to as she. The Greek is sophia...and sophia is the root of the English terms, "sophistication" and "philosophy". We can only speculate as to why it is a woman and not a man, or why personify at all...but let me stress the things mentioned in the verse. Wisdom, like a good woman, should not be forsaken...for she will keep you well, nurture you like a good wife does her husband. And so, love her, not just like her, love her as a good wife, and she will stand by her man...she will guard your soul, so very very well. Say it...Get Wisdom!

26. Wisdom Is Not ENTICED

Proverbs 7:4-5...Say to wisdom, You are my sister, and call insight your intimate friend, to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.

One of the more emphasized warnings of Solomon to his son and to all sons is do not be enticed by an immoral woman to engage in sinful sex. Males do well to exercise self control of their passions, so as to not force a woman against her will,

or to tempt her to do so consensually. But, wisdom will need to be found in denying the advances of females. I recall years ago, a member of this congregation, after a sermon in which I spoke to young men about not making advances on women, said, she agreed with all I said, but thought it is the girls too that come on to the boys a lot. She then told me stories of girls calling her son inviting him to have sex with them. The bible backs this mother up. Wisdom is saying no to girls who are more than consenting, they are initiating it. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

27. Wisdom Has Been Around FOREVER

Proverbs 8:22-23...*"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.*

In this chapter of Proverbs, wisdom is personified, is speaking as a person. The Lord possessed ME, is the Lord possessed wisdom. Wisdom has been around forever, longer than the earth, the universe and all that is in them. Listen to the continuation of the reading...beginning at verse 24...*When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man. — Say it with me...GET Wisdom!*

28. Wisdom SINGS

Colossians 3:16...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

We learn from this verse, that God is expecting wisdom to be mutually shared, reciprocally given, and sung. Wisdom sings. Now, some folks may be more naturally inclined to sing. Others may be more gifted...but one thing wisdom from above does in everyone is sing. The verse says the Word of Christ enriches, teaches, admonishes and then thankfully sing. A mind being filled with heavenly wisdom, is going to sing. Wisdom sings. Let's do it. Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

29. CHRIST Is All Wisdom

*Colossians 2:2...hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, **which is Christ**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. — I Corinthians 1:3...He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.*

You want to get wisdom? Get Jesus Christ! I mean it. Go get Him. You get Jesus Christ, you put Him on and adorn yourself with Him everyday, then you will have wisdom and be getting more wisdom day by day. It cannot fail...nor will you be disappointed...for God has promised. Find Jesus. Find wisdom. Wisdom & understanding, prudence & judgment, discretion & discernment you will most certainly find in Christ Jesus as Lord. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

30. Through The CHURCH Is Seen Wisdom

Ephesians 3:10...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

If we are going to get serious about getting wisdom, wisdom from above that truly is wisdom, then we must get serious about church. It is where God has designed that His awesome wisdom be displayed. And not just to us, but to powerful forces in heavenly places! This thing called church is not simply a support network for Christians on earth, an educational place for learning the bible, a spiritual care center for the weak in faith...though all that and more are most certainly true, but the church of Jesus Christ is the manifold wisdom of God! You want to get wisdom, then get church. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

31. God's WORD Gives Wisdom

Colossians 3:16...Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

You want to be wise? You want to get wisdom? Then open your bible and start reading and learning. And let it be a frequent thing. Let it be a practice of everyday life, richly internalizing it, and you will experience the wisdom that comes from above...from heaven. This isn't that sham of a wisdom that ungodly men have come up with from their vain imaginations, but this is the rich and deep wisdom of God, shared with us through His word, the bible. — Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

32. Wisdom Builds A HOUSE

Proverbs 24:3...*By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;*

Now, we all know that it takes a lot of constructive thought to build a literal house, to design, and follow the blueprint to make a dwelling place. But, the same goes for a household...a family, a home. We all want to be part of a family, a close family, a good family, and regret and feel sorry about those whose households are dysfunctional and a mess. Well, there can be given lots of tips and advice given on how to have a well established home, but none will be surpass God and His wisdom and knowledge. Hebrews 3:4 reads this way...*For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.* — So, let the wisdom and understanding of God build and establish your house. — Say it...Get Wisdom!

33. Wisdom Is NOT ALWAYS Appreciated

Ecclesiastes 9:13-15...*I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siege works against it. But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man.*

Wisdom will not always be appreciated by others. In the verses that immediately follow, Solomon goes on to say...*But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard. The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.* — If we want the praises of men, more than that of God, then wisdom from above will not be your desire, nor will you go and get it, as the Bible urges you to do. And so, as with many things of God, including wisdom, we have to ask ourselves,

who are we out to please, God or Man? Make it God and say with me...Get Wisdom!

34. Wisdom Is Like HONEY

Proverbs 24:13-14...My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

Honey is good for you and it tastes good, too. Wisdom is the same....good for you in protecting your hopefulness and providing a bright future. How sweet it is! Wisdom is tasty, as well as good for our souls. Isn't that sweet? God could have made it a bitter pill to swallow, but He did not. Wisdom from above is sweet honey for our souls. So, Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

35. Wisdom Does Not Show PARTIALITY

Proverbs 24:23...These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good.

I have a sermon coming soon titled: Do Nothing With Partiality and so this will serve as a primer. In His dealing with man, God does not show partiality, is no respecter of persons, and shows no favoritism...but is fair, just and equitable with all. Wisdom then is the same way...and we ought to be that way, too. In all our judgments with others, be concerned about what is right, not who you like. Be concerned about upholding the truth and righteousness, not what might be the repercussions, the advantages or disadvantages, etc. Wisdom is consistent with judgments no matter who the person affected. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

36. Wisdom loves REPROOF

Proverbs 9:8...*Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.*

Do you know what this verse is saying? Wisdom in a man makes him humble, makes him feel he doesn't know everything or is a know-it-all. Isn't that interesting? The more a wise man knows, the more he realizes he doesn't. And so when reprovved about something, possibly corrected or even when someone tries to elaborate on something about which you feel you already know a lot, you don't feel threatened, insulted, defensive, and the like. Rather, wisdom wants to know better the truth, at no concern to how that makes me look or feel. Amen? Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

37. Wisdom Draws A CROWD

I Kings 10:24...*And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind.*

People are drawn to men who are wise. Whether themselves wise or not, it is an admired thing...others recognize and appreciate. Solomon had exceptional wisdom, given of God, and the whole world wanted exposure to it. The Queen of Sheba came a long way just so she could see and hear with her own eyes and ears what had been told. After seeing, she said, the half was not told me. In other words, it was much greater than I expected. — Now, what does this say to you and me? In getting wisdom, go get it. Go far. Go long. Go deep. You won't be disappointed. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

38. Wisdom's Proof Is In The PUDDING

James 3:13...*Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.*

We can talk about wisdom all day, but the proof is in eating the pudding...in practicing what we are learning that is wise. God says if you are wise, show it..don't just talk a good line, but walk the line. Too many times wisdom can become a mental exercise...something we think is all in your heady thoughts about things, but not God's heavenly wisdom. The wisdom from above is motivating. And so let's get moving...and say it with me...Let's Get wisdom!

39. Wisdom Understands COMPLICATED Things Of God

Revelation 13:18... *This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.*

Not all of God's revealed Word is complicated, hard to understand, but some of it is. And so wisdom is needed to go deeper into the utterances of God. Figuring out who 666 is, is just one example. We need to get wisdom, so we can get more wisdom. Understand what I mean? God has made no mistake in including some complicated sayings in the bible...it is meant to be there and those who are growing in their faith need to grow in wisdom to unlock the meanings. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

40. The SCRIPTURES Make You Wise

II Timothy 3:15...*and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

The Scriptures are able to make you wise and so if we are going to get wisdom, and make it a principle things, as Solomon urges us to do, then there must be a place we go often...and that is the Holy Bible. And not just when we need an answer to some question, or to settle a disagreement, but often just so as to increase wisdom within us. It is a powerful book, unlike all other books, able to do this we must believe. And as with Timothy, so with us, you can never start too early. Timothy's mother and grandmother had begun this with him when he was just a child. And so ought we. Say it with me....Get Wisdom!

41. Wisdom SETTLES Disputes

I Corinthians 6:5...I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers...

Sadly often to our shame, we do not seek it out, but wisdom can settle disputes between brothers in Christ and others, too for that matter. And so we need to be wise to be on call in the future to be of help to others needing assistance in resolving differences, or even making tough decisions. — And if we are in need of that, show at least a bit of wisdom to seek out those who have wisdom to help. Don't shamefully be a fool, being one who feels no one can tell him anything he doesn't already know, or will admit he doesn't know. Be humble, ask for wise help. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

42. God's Wisdom Is FOLLY To Men

I Corinthians 3:23-24...but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

One thing we must count on happening when we get heavenly wisdom is it not being esteemed wise at all by the world, but rather foolishness. Not, just lacking in regard as wisdom, but just the polar opposite...it is folly, utter nonsense. And the prime example of this is the wise plan and scheme of God in saving of the world through a cursed execution of a man on a cross. What folly. No. What awesome wisdom. And so just be ready for that. And don't let this keep you from getting wisdom. Say it with me...Get wisdom!

43. Be Wise As SERPENTS

Matthew 10:16...*Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.*

Notice three things from this statement of Jesus. 1) The good shepherd, Jesus wills that we his sheep intermingle in a very wicked environment. Wolves willing our destruction will surround us. Isolating ourselves in a commune or mountaintop monastery is not His will for us. 2) To successfully do this will require a lot of wisdom...and not just any old wisdom, but wise like a serpent, as shrewd as snakes. 3) But, at the same time a balance in demeanor is required, innocent as doves. Christians, we are a balanced creation of God...able to be wise & shrewd and innocent & harmless at the same time. But, wisdom we must get. Say it with me...Get wisdom!

44. Wisdom Builds A SOLID Foundation

Matthew 7:24...*Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

Jesus describes two kinds of people...those wise, who are building their lives on a solid rock and those who are building on sand. And when adversities come (and

they certainly will) then the wise will be able to endure, but the foolish will be devastated. And just who are these wise ones...building for themselves a solid foundation? Those who hear whatever Jesus says and obeys His words. That's it. We get wisdom for lots of reasons, but a chief one, is so as to endure the storms of life. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

45. Wisdom Makes One BRIGHT

Daniel 12:3...And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

To this day we still describe folks as bright. And things they astutely do or say as brilliant. And it is true...for God says it is true. God has made we human beings to be attracted to that which shines and wisdom He proclaims is one such thing. The wisest man ever to walk on earth, except Jesus, said it this way. Solomon in Ecclesiastes 8:1...*Who is like the wise? And who knows the interpretation of a thing? A man's wisdom makes his face shine, and the hardness of his face is changed.* — We all need to get wisdom. Say it with me...Get Wisdom!

46. Wisdom Excels And Exceeds

II Chronicles 1:11-12...God answered Solomon, Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked possessions, wealth, honor, or the life of those who hate you, and have not even asked long life, but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself that you may govern my people over whom I have made you king, wisdom and knowledge are granted to you. I will also give you riches, possessions, and honor, such as none of the kings had who were before you, and none after you shall have the like.

Wisdom excels and exceeds many other things we place stock in. Good things, too. Things the Lord does not at all mind blessing us with...also. But, first things

first. Wisdom...wisdom from above...it is the principle thing. As we began our theme at the beginning of the year, Solomon says in all your getting, get wisdom. It is the principle thing. See Proverbs 4. And so, we conclude the year and its theme where we began. Let us seek wisdom first, the kind blessed of the Lord. Say it with me one last time...Get Wisdom!