

A WORD TO THE WISE

By E. Kubassek

"A wise man will hear, and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel." (Pro. 1:5, NKJ)

The purpose of this writing is to present a challenge to all who are seeking to know "What is truth?"

Webster's definition of wisdom: "Knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action: sagacity, prudence, or common sense." Let us also quote the definition of sagacity - "Acuteness of mental discernment, and soundness of judgment."

Many people consider Wisdom and Knowledge to be one and the same, however this isn't so. Knowledge being the "acquaintance with facts" in and by itself can be very dangerous when not coupled with wisdom.

In approximately 530 B.C. Daniel prophesied that "knowledge would be increased." (Dan. 12:4) This is truer today than any other time in history. What is sorely lacking is the wisdom to parallel all that is known. True wisdom has its source in the Almighty God Himself, and it is declared in Rom. 16:27, "That He is the only wise God."

HUMANISM

We are living in a time of unparalleled knowledge and if this alone is the answer to every human need we should have a state of near Utopia. For many years we have heard that education is the solution to poverty, war, and every other social and economic need. Education is without doubt important, however, when administered by humanists it can destroy people's faith in the Almighty God. Our minds are pumped full of all that is now known with an intended omission of an Almighty God, the Creator.

For centuries individuals in educational circles have been instrumental in sowing seeds of humanitarianism in the minds of students eager to attain intellectual greatness.

Humanitarianism which may be better known as secular humanism is, (A) the doctrine that man's obligation is concerned wholly with the welfare of the human race, (B) the doctrine that mankind may become perfect without divine aid, (C) theologically, the doctrine that Jesus Christ possessed a human nature only. (Webster)

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man." (Rom. 1: 20-23, NKJ)

NEW AGE

The New Age movement denies the outward existence of God, in other words He only exists in one's own self. This philosophical doctrine isn't really new at all. At various intervals

throughout history, movements have arisen which promoted a deviation from the worship of the Almighty God, and the morals, values, and civil laws based on His commandments.

Many today are corrupting the minds of the masses by teaching that there are no absolutes, but rather that ethics should be based on a particular situation in which a person finds themselves at the time a decision is made. Each of us are encouraged to decide for ourselves what is right or wrong, without allowing any outside code, or standard to influence us.

Satan is confronted with the root of his motives in Ezekiel 28:6, "Thou hast set thine heart, as the heart of God."

If we believe that the only source of good is in the heart (innermost being) of man, how futile our efforts are in self-improvement. This teaching is as useless as encouraging one to lift themselves out of the mud by pulling up on their own shoes.

RELIGIONS

Many of the religions well known to us today were founded by individuals who spent time and effort in search of inner peace. Along the way their minds devised endless rituals, traditions, and teachings. Multitudes to this present day follow men like Buddha who himself confessed near the end of his life that he didn't have peace and knew not where he was going.

The exaltation of individuals who convince themselves and others that they have an inside track on reaching ultimate fulfillment has spawned innumerable cults, many of which have become widely accepted religions. Jesus rebuked the religious leaders of His day by saying, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your traditions? Thus you have made the commandments of God of no effect by your tradition. And in vain do you worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

People of all time periods have been found to follow religions, which brought them into direct conflict with their Divine Creator. To this present day some religions require human sacrifices, while most demand dedication of time, and means without any truly satisfying fulfillment. Many people go through life without ever really knowing why they continue to practice the traditions of their ancestors. Some do get a good feeling, or feel good about themselves as they go through religious motions and exercises. Because of this "good" feeling many are convinced they are on the true road to knowing and worshipping God, whoever they conceive Him to be. Can we really trust our fickle feelings with matters of eternal consequence? NO! A thousand times NO! The Apostle Paul wrote, "For I determined not to know anything among you, except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2) Paul knew only too well that his previous religion brought him into direct opposition to God whom he was sincerely trying to serve. Meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus revolutionized his whole life. Later in life Paul confessed that his religious accomplishments, which he once held so highly, were now meaningless garbage. In fact he realized they had no place in the life of a Christian.

RELIGION WITH EVIL POWER

A demonstration of supernatural power is highly sought after, and most desirable by individuals in all religions. This need, to have spiritual power has caused many leaders, as well as countless followers, to open themselves up to the spiritual realms. We humans are a tri-part being, - spirit, soul, and body. It has been the intention of our Divine Creator that we should be as conscious of the spiritual, as we are of the natural realm.

What many people do not realize is that God is not the only spirit. Some people openly promote the worship of Satan. Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech, gods of antiquity are actively worshipped today. These deities, both male and female are representations of Satan himself. As any individual seeks to yield himself to Satan, there is a transference of evil power and character. In the lust for power, human and animal sacrifices are made, along with numerous grotesque rituals.

Many others seek out those who have magical powers for healing, fortune telling, contacting the dead, etc. Hosts of people have been tricked out of their money, with pretense and partial truth. Let us not be deceived, along with those who use trickery are those who have indeed given themselves over to the spirits of the kingdom of sin and darkness.

The most deceptive are individuals and groups who operate under the name, and guise of Christianity. For centuries masses have been led by people who practice various forms of occult, and witchcraft. To these people any sign or occurrence which defies natural explanation is considered an act of, and a sign from God.

Spiritual power to exalt oneself or religion has only one purpose and that is control of others. This portrays the very nature of Satan, who lifted himself above God, and causes others to follow the road to spiritual death.

Be assured, dear reader, that not all power is of God. Satan as well as we have the privilege of choice. When we choose to follow any other path than the Divinely appointed, we are opening up our lives to the influence of evil forces.

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." (1 Sam. 15:23)

ENDUED WITH DIVINE POWER

"And you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." (Acts 1:8)

This promise of Jesus Christ to his disciples was initiated on the day of Pentecost. Many would argue that this was a one-time outpouring and is not intended to be the ongoing experience of believers in Jesus Christ. History indicates that spiritual gifts, and manifestations were in operation many years after the initial outpouring. Till this very day countless bon fide miracles are continuing to be performed by the Almighty, through His people.

Divine love (Agape) must be the motivation behind any form of spiritual ministry. The whole ministry of Jesus Christ is a demonstration of what God even now desires to perform through His church. Jesus said, "I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also: and greater works than these because I go unto the father." (John 14:12)

I do not know of any one individual through whom greater things have been done, however collectively, the believers in Christ have been used of God to perform many more miracles than Jesus did in his three years of ministry.

CAN I KNOW GOD?

Knowing and experiencing God is not some illusive mirage, like a lake which appears in the desert only to disappear just before it's reached.

"The desire of all nations shall come" (Haggai 2:7)

"The scepter (royal authority) shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen. 49:10) (Shiloh - a description of Messiah as the Prince of Peace.)

Nearly two thousand years ago the long awaited Saviour did appear in the form of a man, the form beyond which many then and now cannot see. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power (privilege-authority) to become the sons of God, even them who believe on His name:" (John 1:11&12)

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6)

This human form named, Jesus, filled with the very essence of God Himself was and ever shall be the only bridge between Divine and mortal. There are many ways to worship the endless number of gods who are the creation of men and women. The only God who is truly worthy of our praise and service is the one who created us.

Break Out of the Mold

The pressure to conform is on us from our prenatal state to the grave. At best, conforming can cause us to be good citizens with wholesome attitudes and morals. The other end of the spectrum defies description, with each generation sinking to ever lower depravity. Many, like zombies, are controlled by the will of others who are devoid of love, and truth. There is a way out of it all, by TRANSFORMATION, (to change in condition, nature, and character.) How is this possible? "By the renewing (making new again) of your minds." (Rom. 12:2)

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16) 'Mind' in this reference is (nous) in Greek suggesting, "will."

Philippians 2:13 shows how we are able to do that which is humanly impossible, and that is to know the will of God and be able to perform it. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and do His good pleasure." Verse 15, "That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world." What a transformation awaits all who will respond to the Heavenly Father's call.

BORN AGAIN

Even as natural birth must precede natural life, even so spiritual life can only begin with a birth of the spiritual dimension. There are no other options. Jesus declared, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

With spiritual birth comes a whole spectrum of divine senses, wisdom, and knowledge, in fact we inherit the very nature of the Divine Almighty God.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said to you, you must be born again." (John 3:6 & 7)

How Can I Be Born Again?

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life: and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

John the Baptist who recognized Jesus to be the Begotten Son of God also knew and declared that Believing was the only way to find and know the way. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

The simplicity of this essential requirement of believing seems to be one of the greatest obstacles people face in coming to God. How willing many are to try to earn or pay for salvation, but believing that it has already been paid for by the life and death of Jesus Christ defies our reasoning. Many volumes could be written about the efforts of people trying to be worthy and acceptable, however, these are futile efforts to purchase the priceless gift, which is available only as gift. Only the sinless life of Jesus and His surrender to death by crucifixion could ever pay the debt of humanities' sin.

Dare we cast aside the provision which God has provided, and think higher of our own efforts to save ourselves? "For by grace (unmerited favor) you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works..." (Eph. 2: 8-10)

The priceless gift of salvation is far beyond the ability of any mortal to earn. As an expression of His love, Jesus paid it all for every living soul in Adam's race. If you can believe it, He now offers without price, as a free gift, eternal life right here, and now!!

"The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that is the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, (rightness) and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." (Rom. 10:8-10, NAS) Simply believing and confessing the truth brings about birth into the family of God!!

"The FEAR (reverence) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding." (Pro. 9:10) Regardless of educational, and social status, anyone who reverences God the Almighty, and comes to Him through His son Jesus will be received, and granted new life through a second birth.

Word to the Wise

Seek Him with your whole heart, and you will surely find His response to you will be immediate, and ever increasingly gratifying. He is very anxious to make Himself known to each of us. He said, "Call unto me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not" (Jer. 33:3)

The message to every living soul is, believe and acknowledge God the Father of all, and His Son Jesus Christ, "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom, and knowledge." (Col. 2:3) If you do not yet know Him, will you not call upon Him right now? Confess your sinful state, and your need for Him to change you. Accept His forgiveness, and begin to allow Christ to live in and through you.