

## THE WISDOMS OF SCRIPTURE

### Part 5

#### The Wisdom of the World

1st Co. 1:17-25

## INTRODUCTION

- I. THE WORLD REFERS TO THE ORGANIZED SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY SATAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTROLLING THE UNBELIEVING WORLD OF MANKIND.
  - A. The World System is defined as:
    1. ***“In the sense of the present world-system, the ethically bad sense of the word, refers to the “order” “arrangement,” under which Satan has organized the world of unbelieving mankind upon his cosmic principles of force, greed, selfishness, ambition, and pleasure. This world-system is imposing and powerful with armies and fleets; is often outwardly religious, scientific, cultured, and elegant; but, seething with national and commercial rivalries and ambitions, is upheld in any real crisis only by armed force, and is dominated by Satanic principles.”*** -- Scofield Reference Bible
    2. ***“ The dwellers on the earth are by nature without religion, and act under a set of maxims, aims, and principles that have reference only to this life, the term comes to be used with reference to that community; that is, to the objects which they especially seek, and the principles by which they are actuated.”*** -- Albert Barnes Notes on The Bible
  - B. Satan is the originator of the world system.
    1. He is seen as the prince of this world. John 14:30; 16:11
    2. Satan is allowed to rule over the kingdoms of the world today. Lk. 4:5-6; cf. Rev. 11:15
  - C. The world system is comprised of two entities:
    1. The things of the world
      - a) There are biological things that belong to the world. 1st John 3:17
      - b) The things of this world are limited to this world. 1st Tim. 6:7
    2. The people of the world.
      - a) The people includes those who are evil. 1st Co. 5:10
      - b) It includes some who are poor. Ja. 2:5

- D. The believer is instructed to be discerning in his/her use of the world system. 1st Co. 7:31

## II. WISDOM IS A CENTERPIECE OF THE WORLD USED BY SATAN TO CORRALL MEN INTO THE SYSTEM.

- A. The wisdom of the world perpetuates a way to experientially know God apart from God's provision.
  - 1. Those at the Tower of Babel rejected God's provisions to establish their own. Rom. 1:21
    - a) Their thinking became pointless -- making no sense beyond this life. Rom. 1:21 cf. Eph. 4:28
    - b) Their hearts (mind, will and emotions) were darkened -- not being able to see things the way they really are. Cf. Eph. 4:18
    - c) They "professed" themselves to be wise but were made fools. Rom. 1:22
      - (1) "Profess" is the word phasko which means "to affirm, allege, portend." -- Joseph Thayer cf. Acts 25:19 (of Paul's assertion that Jesus was alive)
      - (2) "Fools" (Aor. Pass. Ind.) is used -- used of ones unable to make proper judgment concerning situations. Cf. Matt. 25:2,3,8 (of the virgins who did not plan for the long wait for the bride groom.
  - 2. The Corinthians fancied themselves to be wise because of their instruction from false teachers. Cf. 1st Co. 4:10 (Paul uses sarcasm to make light of their profession of wisdom); 2 Co. 11:19 (they tolerated false teachers under the guise of wisdom)
- B. Satan uses the tools of the age to inject wisdom into the world. 1st Co. 1:20
  - 1. The "wise" is one who is supposed **to have knowledge and understands how to apply that knowledge.**
    - a) Most societies have "wise men" who are supposed to have wisdom to explain how life works. Cf. Dan. 2:12; 5:8,15; Est. 1:13
    - b) Those wise in the world are not dependent upon God. Is. 5:21 (in their own eyes); 29:14 (those in Israel)
    - c) The wise in corinth interjected a wisdom from the world regarding the how to operate in the local church.
      - (1) It includes a standard for articulation. 1st Co. cf. 1st John 4:5
      - (2) It includes a different status for salvation. 1st Co. 1:18-20
      - (3) It includes knowledge for how to handle sin. Cf. 1st Co. 5:1

- (4) It includes doctrine that runs counter to Scripture. Cf. 1st John 4:1-5
2. The “scribe” is the Greek word grammateus --
    - a) **“The propounder of questions; the seeker of allegorical, mystical, and cabalistical senses from the Holy Scriptures.”** -- Adam Clarke Commentary
    - b) **“ In the Bible, a man learned in the Mosaic law and in the sacred writings, an interpreter, teacher. Scribes examined the more difficult and subtle questions of the law; added to the Mosaic law decisions of various kinds thought to elucidate its meaning and scope, and did this to the detriment of religion.”** -- Joseph Thayer cf. Matt. 13:52 (one who is instructed in a certain discipline); Matt. 7:29 (focus of teaching upon scholarship over substance); John 7:15, 49 (thought their expertise in the Mosaic law placed them above the people)
  3. The “disputer” is one who is characterized as a debator. Cf. Acts 15:7; 28:29 (the advancing of opinions for the purpose of finding truth)
- C. The Wisdom of the World directs believers away from God’s provisions for this dispensation.
1. Due to perceived “wisdom” the Corinthians accepted false teachings on three fronts. 2 Co. 11:3
    - a) They were duped by a the preaching of another kind of Jesus.
    - b) They were duped by the preaching of a different kind of Spirit.
    - c) They were duped by the preaching of another gospel.
  2. The Corinthians were deceived. 2 Co. 11:3
  3. The Corinthians were directed from the simplicity that is “in Christ”. 2 Co. 11:3

## CONCLUSION