

THE WISDOMS OF SCRIPTURE

Part 6

The Wisdom From God

Part 1

The Subjects of God's Wisdom

1st Co. 2:5

INTRODUCTION

The focus of the Church today is listed in Scripture and it may not be what you think. The Church's focus today should be upon the maturation of the saints. The apostle Paul in his focus was totally focused to this end. In his epistle to the Colossians, Paul writes:

"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:" -- Col. 1:27-28

In his letter to the Philippians the apostle wrote:

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. -- Phil. 3:12

The wisdom from God revealed in Scripture does not pertain to politics, social issues or the like, but pertains to how one who is maturing spiritually can abound in maturation. Today we will consider those who are maturing -- the subjects of God's wisdom.

I. THE WORD PERFECT IS USED IN SCRIPTURE IN BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TO CONVEY THOSE WHO ARE ACTING RIGHT BEFORE GOD.

A. There are several Old Testament words translated "perfect"

1. Tamiym -- "**entire (literally, figuratively or morally); also (as noun) integrity, truth: - without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincerely (-ity), sound, without spot, undefiled, upright (-ly), whole.**" -- Strong's lexicon cf. Gen. 6:9 (of Noah); Job 1:1 (of Job)
2. Shalem -- "**complete, safe, peaceful, perfect, whole, full, at peace.**" -- Brown, Driver & Briggs
3. Kaliyl -- "**complete; as noun, the whole (specifically a sacrifice entirely consumed); as adverb fully: - all, every whit, flame, perfect**

(-ion), utterly, whole burnt offering (sacrifice), wholly.” -- Strong’s lexicon

- B. There are several Greek words translated “perfect”.
1. Holokleria -- **“of an unimpaired condition of the body, in which all its members are healthy and fit for use good health.”** -- Joseph Thayer Acts 3:16
 2. Akribeia -- **“exactness, exactest care: in accordance with the strictness of the Mosaic law.”** -- Joseph Thayer Acts 22:3
 3. Teleios
 - a) **“Brought to its end, finished.”** -- Joseph Thayer
 - b) **“Complete (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); (as a noun) completeness: - of full age, man, perfect.”** -- Strong lexicon
 - c) **“The result of accumulating experiences while he (the believer) is in a state of spirituality. All Christian growth, or maturing, is in the realm of experiential knowledge (γινώσκω), which is intellectual knowledge (οἶδα) put into practice so that one gains actual experience based on that knowledge. “Head” knowledge then becomes knowledge related to experience.”** -- H. Lavern Schafer, *Maturing In Christ*
- C. The noun form of “teleios” is used to indicate things/people that have reached a completion.
1. Teleios is used in the articular to denote the completion of the canon of Scripture. 1st Co. 13:10
 2. The ideal of “perfect” is seen in the use of teleios regarding the will of God. Rom. 12:2
 3. Patience has an intended completion. Ja. 1:4
 4. Love can reach an intended end. 1st John 4:18
- D. The believer in this dispensation has all that is necessary for maturation.
1. The Word of God is used in the maturation process. 2 Tim. 3:17; 2 Pet. 3:18
 2. False methods of maturity are advanced in the church.
 - a) Maturation by the flesh. Gal. 3:3
 - b) Maturation by “Man’s wisdom” 1st Co. 2:6
- E. There are clear characteristics associated with those who are maturing.
1. They are able to partake of “strong meat”. Heb. 5:14
 - a) “Strong” is the word stereos -- **“stiff, that is, solid, stable”** -- Strong’s lexicon (versus milk cf. 1st Co. 3:2)

- b) “Meat” trope is used of ***solid substances like animal flesh and other foods that are a necessary source of nutrients to strengthen the body***. Cf. Acts 9:19; 14:17
- 2. They have exercised their “senses” -- aistheterion -- “***the faculty of the mind for perceiving, understanding, judging***” - Joseph Thayer cf. Phil. 1:9
- 3. They are able to discern. Heb. 5:14
- 4. They have a persistent focus upon their position. Phil. 3:14-15
- 5. They are able to teach others the Christian Life. Heb. 5:12

II. MATURATION IS THE EXPECTATION OF BELIEVERS IN THIS DISPENSATION.

A. The Old Testament saint could not mature.

- 1. The Old Testament saint could act right before God, but not mature.¹
- 2. The law was unable to make Old Testament saints mature. Heb. 7:19; 10:1; 11:40

B. God’s wisdom for this dispensation, which is given to the those maturing, was not revealed before Paul revealed it. 1st Co. 2:7

- 1. The word “mystery” is the Greek word musterion which is defined by Scripture as that was “hid” before its unveiling.
 - a) The word “hid” is the word apokrupto which means “***to conceal, keep a secret.***” Eph. 3:4-5
 - b) Paul outlines two important points about this mystery.
 - (1) It was ordained before the ages.
 - (2) It was ordained (facing) the believer’s glory.
- 2. The phrase “among them” (en tois teleios) notes that not every believer at Corinth was carnal, some were maturing. 1st Co. 2:6
- 3. The “rulers of the age” were caught off guard by God’s revelation of this mystery. 1st Co. 2:8

CONCLUSION

¹ A good illustration is that of a child who can act right before his parents yet still be incapable of acting in a mature manner.