

# The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men : Part 1

Copyright 1994 - 2023 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 9, 1998

Last Updated : December 12, 2023

God Is Not Impressed With Worldly Wisdom, Led Astray By Secular Education, Divine Wisdom Versus Devilish Wisdom, Jewish Religious Leaders Planned And Killed Jesus, Jewish Traditions Versus Commandments Of God, A War Of Opposing Ideas And Theologies, Words Of Death And Words Of Life, Deceptive Words Of The Babylonian Talmud And Other Jewish Rabbis And Philosophers, Legalism Of The Book Of Jubilees, Suppression Of The Spirit Of Prophecy, Jewish Religionists Murdered Stephen To Stop Hearing The Truth, The Expectations Regarding John Hyrcanus, Jewish Religionists Accused Jesus Of Being Possessed By The Devil, Murderers Of The Prophets, The Jews' Long History Of Disobeying And Ignoring The Lord

In the article entitled "The Only Credentials You Need", I present a variety of Scriptures which reveal exactly what kind of people it is whom the Lord chooses as His servants. As shown in that article, contrary to what some people might expect, God is not the least bit impressed by worldly wisdom. Nowhere does the Bible instruct us to study the teachings of the ancient philosophers, or to waste years of our lives in some place of higher learning such as at a university or at a theological seminary. In many instances, such study serves more to destroy a person's faith in God and His Holy Word, than to strengthen and build upon it. It is for this very reason that the Apostle Paul gave us a very stern warning in the following words:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Colossians 2:8, KJV

Paul's use of the word "spoil" in the previous verse is very interesting. According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, it is derived from the Koine Greek word "sulagogeo". As you can see by the following definitions, it conveys the seriousness

of being deceived by such secular knowledge:

----- Begin Quote -----

1. To carry off booty
  - a. to carry one off as a captive (and slave)
  - b. to lead away from the truth and subject to one's sway

----- End Quote -----

How fitting indeed! Those people who study such things can truly be led away from the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Although they may not realize it at the time, they are in fact slowly being placed under bondage as the slaves or captives of the Devil. Not in a physical sense mind you, but rather in a mental and spiritual sense. Through a slow subtle indoctrination process, their foundation of faith is being utterly destroyed.

Following his excellent chapter regarding the subject of faith and works, the Apostle James warns us of the dangers of our tongue. In discussing the sharp difference between godly wisdom and knowledge which builds up and edifies, and worldly wisdom which only seeks to knock down and criticize, James makes the following interesting comments:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

James 3:15-17, KJV

The first two verses describe the very same kind of worldly wisdom that the ancient Jewish religious leaders had. Sadly, it is this same kind of wisdom that many people continue to cherish today as well. The Jews prided themselves in their rabbinical teachings, and the traditions of their fathers. But just as the Gospels teach us, it was that same devilish wisdom which caused them to criticize and ultimately attempt to "destroy" Jesus, as we can plainly see by the following set of verses. If anyone ever tries to convince you that the unbelieving Jews did not murder Jesus, here is Scriptural proof that they actually did. It was NOT just the Romans:

"Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes,

and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5, KJV

"But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus."

Matthew 27:20, KJV

"Now the feast of unleavened bread drew nigh, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and scribes sought how they might kill him; for they feared the people."

Luke 22:1-2, KJV

"And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God."

John 5:16-18, KJV

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him . . . Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me? The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee? . . . Then said some of them of Jerusalem, is not this he, whom they seek to kill?"

John 7:1, 19-20, 25, KJV

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the

devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:37-44, KJV

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."

John 19:10-12, KJV

". . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree."

Acts 5:27-30, KJV

Jesus clearly recognized the wicked source of His accusers' wisdom; and their dead, dry, spiritless religion. It is for this very reason that He said such things as the following to them regarding how through their man-made traditions, they sought to nullify the very commandments of God:

"But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"

Matthew 15:3, KJV

"For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do . . . And he said unto them,

Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition . . . Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."

Mark 7:8-9, 13, KJV

If you read the four Gospels and the Book of Acts slowly and carefully, you will begin to understand that the real battle was not happening in the physical realm. It was happening in the spiritual realm; because it was a war of words, just as the Apostle James pointed out in the previous verses. It was a war of opposing ideas and theologies between the Wisdom of God -- which was manifested through Jesus who is the Living Word of God -- and the earthy, devilish wisdom of the Devil, as spoken through the mouths of the Jewish religious leaders who sought to preserve the status quo. The words, wisdom and traditions of the Jewish religionists were thus the ways of death, while the words of Jesus Christ were, and are to this day, the way to Eternal Life. Consider the following verse:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

John 6:63, KJV

Sadly, even in this modern day, the unbelieving Jews continue along this very same deceitful path by exalting -- indeed, in fact worshipping -- the misguided words of their philosophers and rabbis, as found in the Mishnah and the Gemara of their holy book, the Babylonian Talmud. Such is likewise the case with the twelfth century Spanish-born Jewish physician and philosopher, Maimonides. The teachings of this man, as well as others like him, are highly esteemed within Judaism, and are quoted extensively. Meanwhile the words of Jesus Christ are trampled to the ground and ignored.

Another clear example of the exaltation of Jewish law and tradition above the true Spirit of God can be found in the Book of Jubilees. This work came into being in the second century before Christ, during the reign of the Maccabees. Written by a devout Pharisee of unknown identity, the book is basically a rewrite of the Creation account and ancient Jewish history into which the author liberally incorporates the Levitical Code, even though the priestly order of the Levites did not even exist until the time of Moses and Aaron over one thousand years later.

Because of this fact, certain Biblical events which have been preserved in the Christian Old Testament, are either totally omitted from the Book of Jubilees, or else they are distorted, because they were contrary to the Levitical Code which was given to Moses centuries later. Furthermore, while the very legalistic spirit of the written Law reigns supreme throughout the pages of the Book of Jubilees, at the same time, the true spirit of prophecy is heavily suppressed and discouraged. In fact, as I explain in other articles, during the same period that this manuscript was written, exercising the gift of prophecy was punishable by excommunication from the synagogue or temple. The Jewish religionists simply did not want to hear the real voice of God, just as occurred when they stoned Stephen in the Book of Acts. Consider the following verses:

"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul."  
Acts 7:57-58, KJV

To give you another example, some of these ancient Jews were so deluded by their own works of humanistic reasoning and earthly wisdom, that they believed that prince, prophet and priest John Hyrcanus was the promised messiah. They were so blinded to the truth, that they expected him to usher in the messianic kingdom, in which the Jews would overcome all of their enemies, men would live to be a thousand years old, and the Earth would slowly and physically be transformed into a new earth.

Of course, as we know today, the Lord shook them up terribly when their expectations failed to materialize. Instead, they soon found themselves the victims of cruel Roman oppression and domination. Ironically, when their actual Messiah did arrive on the scene less than one hundred years later, these very same Jews who considered themselves to be so wise in their own conceit, soundly rejected Him, and accused Him of being possessed by the Devil; as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils."  
Matthew 12:24, KJV

"And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils."

Mark 3:22, KJV

As I explain in other articles, part of the reason why this legalistic attitude existed at this time in Jewish history, is because the ancient Jewish religious hierarchy totally rejected the Lord's true Prophets, whom in His mercy, He had sent to them one after the other. As an example, consider what Jesus said in one of His most forceful exposés against the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees who were filled with themselves, their own wisdom, and with their own ways:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city: That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Matthew 23:29-39, KJV

Following are some additional verses which are found in both the Old and the New Testaments, which clearly reveal how the true Prophets of the Lord were rejected by the people they were sent to warn"

"Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets,

rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear,  
saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 29:19, KJV

"I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets,  
rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now  
every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go  
not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in  
the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but  
ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me."

Jeremiah 35:15, KJV

"And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous,  
O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast  
judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and  
prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they  
are worthy."

Revelation 16:5-6, KJV

"Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and  
prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty  
angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it  
into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great  
city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at  
all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers,  
and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and  
no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any  
more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no  
more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine  
no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and  
of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy  
merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy  
sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found  
the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were  
slain upon the earth."

Revelation 18:20-24, KJV

As I point out in such articles as the series "The Fruits of  
Disobedience", the Israelites -- and by extension, the Jews  
themselves, who were one of the original Twelve Tribes of  
Israel -- have an extremely long history -- thousands of  
years, in fact -- of ignoring the Lord's warnings, and going  
their own way. This sad truth becomes evident in verses such  
as the following:

"Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from  
twenty yearsold and upward, shall see the land which I



sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:"

Numbers 32:11, KJV

"Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge: for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way."

Judges 2:16-19, KJV

"And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them."

1 Samuel 8:7, KJV

"Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them. But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel."

2 Kings 21:8-9, KJV

"Now therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the terrible God, who keepest covenant and mercy, let not all the trouble seem little before thee, that hath come upon us, on our kings, on our princes, and on our priests, and on our prophets, and on our fathers, and on all thy people, since the time of the kings of Assyria unto this day. Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly: Neither have our kings, our princes, our priests, nor our fathers, kept thy law, nor hearkened unto thy commandments and thy testimonies,

wherewith thou didst testify against them. For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works."

Nehemiah 9:32-35, KJV

"Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work. Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swore in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."

Psalms 95:8-11, KJV

"They have not known nor understood: for he hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand."

Isaiah 44:18, KJV

"For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

Jeremiah 4:22, KJV

"O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return."

Jeremiah 5:3, KJV

"Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it."

Jeremiah 6:19, KJV

"And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."

Jeremiah 2:7, KJV

"But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their

ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them: Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers. Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee. But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."

Jeremiah 7:23-28, KJV

"But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction."

Jeremiah 17:23, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them: Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah 29:17-19, KJV

"And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them . . . And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction."

Jeremiah 32:23, 33, KJV

"Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not

answered."

Jeremiah 35:17, KJV

"And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not."

Jeremiah 36:31, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they are a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein, Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, and to serve other gods, whom they knew not, neither they, ye, nor your fathers. Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods."

Jeremiah 44:2-5, KJV

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; This is Jerusalem: I have set it in the midst of the nations and countries that are round about her. And she hath changed my judgments into wickedness more than the nations, and my statutes more than the countries that are round about her: for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye multiplied more than the nations that are round about you, and have not walked in my statutes, neither have kept my judgments, neither have done according to the judgments of the nations that are round about you; Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, am against thee, and will execute judgments in the midst of thee in the sight of the nations. And I will do in thee that which I have not done, and whereunto I will not do any more the like, because of all thine abominations."

Ezekiel 5:5-9, KJV

"They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the LORD."

Hosea 5:4, KJV

"Woe unto them! for they have fled from me: destruction unto them! because they have transgressed against me: though I have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me. And they have not cried unto me with their heart, when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, and they rebel against me. Though I have bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me. They return, but not to the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt."

Hosea 7:13-16, KJV

"Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto me, saith the LORD."

Zechariah 1:3-4, KJV

"But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts."

Zechariah 7:11-12, KJV

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men : Part 2

Copyright 1994 - 2023 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 9, 1998

Last Updated : December 12, 2023

Jews' Rejection Of The Truth During The New Testament Period, Second Diaspora And Hellenistic Influences On Jewish Culture, Grecian Jews Dispute With Apostle Paul And Try To Kill Him, Blinded By Ancient Philosophy, Apostle Paul Chides Ephesians, Ephesian Idol Merchants Persecute Paul, Blind And Just Unable To Understand Without The Spirit Of God, Be Not Wise In Thine Own Eyes, Have The Faith Of A Little Child, Secular Wisdom And Philosophy Will Not Lead A Person To Salvation, Knowledge Puffeth Up, Secular Humanism, God Has No Respect Of Persons, Purpose Behind The Spiritual Blindness Of First Century Jews, Apollonius of Alexandria Deception, Beware Of Philosophy And Humanism, Difficulty Of Reaching People Who Study Philosophy, Tear Down False Philosophies And Beliefs In Order To Build A New Foundation In Christ, Renewed In Our Minds, The Danger Of Carnal-Mindedness, Cleansed Renewed Sanctified By Word Of God

As I concluded in part one, the Jews have an extremely long history -- thousands of years, in fact -- of ignoring the Lord's warnings, and going their own stubborn way. In part one, I shared with you many verses which are found in the Old Testament which emphasize this very point. Sadly, this stubborn attitude of rebellion and disbelief did not change during the New Testament period. Just as they had rejected and murdered the Prophets in the Old Testament, tragically, many of the Jews continued to reject Jesus and the Apostles in the New Testament as well, preferring to adhere to their own traditions, beliefs and human wisdom instead. Here again are some verses which verify this point. In this group of verses, these unbelieving Jews are exposed for the synagogue of Satan and antichrists that they truly are:

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom [the Jews who falsely claim to be God's "Chosen People"] shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."  
Matthew 8:11-12, KJV

". . . Did ye [speaking to the unbelieving Jews] never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected [meaning the Jews rejecting Jesus], the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The

kingdom of God shall be taken from you, [from the Jews] and given to a nation [God's new born-again Christian nation] bringing forth the fruits thereof. [meaning the fruits of true repentance]"

Matthew 21:42-43, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

"These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me."

John 16:1-3, KJV

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"

Romans 10:16, KJV

"For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost."

1 Thessalonians 2:14-16, KJV

"When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.) Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 3:9-13, KJV

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Revelation 3:9, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:3, KJV

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

2 John 1:7, KJV

Continuing our discussion, another reason why there was such strict adherence to Jewish law and tradition, is because the ancient framework had been weakened by Hellenistic attitudes which had swept across not only Israel, but across much of that area of the world at that time. As I mention in some of my other articles, following the Second Diaspora, which, as you may know, occurred as a result of the invasions by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, dozens of thousands of Jews were forcefully dispersed into the surrounding lands and countries where they adopted the customs, dress and language of their hosts.

This is precisely who the Hellenists were. That is to say, they were Grecian Jews. They were the same philosophical Jews who clashed with the Apostle Paul time and time again. In fact, as is born out in my article "A Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?", they were the very people who tried to kill Paul on several occasions, such as during his first return to Jerusalem following his conversion on the road to Damascus. These Grecian Jews are mentioned in verses such as the following one:

"And he [Paul] spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to



slay him."

Acts 9:29, KJV

These were not all Grecians, or Greeks, in the truest sense of the word. Rather, they were Hellenists who perceived the words of Paul as being contrary to the Torah. In addition, these were Jews who were not only well-versed in the Laws of Moses, but who were also highly educated in the doctrines and teachings of the Greek and Roman philosophers of the preceding few centuries.

Sadly, it was precisely because of their very background in the worldly wisdom of men, that they were thoroughly blinded to the Truth of the Scriptures, and the revelation of Jesus Christ. In his Epistle to the Church at Ephesus, the Apostle Paul also chided the Gentiles who were likewise spiritually blind due to this worldly way of thinking. He referred to it as the "vanity of their mind", as we see by this verse:

"This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

Ephesians 4:17-18, KJV

In fact, as I point out in the "A Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?" article, these Gentile Ephesians were staunch worshippers of Diana, the Roman goddess of chastity, hunting and the moon. She finds her equivalent in the Greek goddess Artemis. Consider the following group of verses where the Ephesian idol merchants all turn against Paul, because as a result of his faithful witnessing about Jesus Christ, people are coming to know Jesus, and thus abandoning their worship of the false idols. Of course, this disrupted the Ephesians' brisk idol selling business, so they were obviously not too pleased with Paul:

"And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: So that not only this

our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians . . . But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

Acts 19:23-28, 34, KJV

Just imagine. These were people who were supposedly highly educated with regards to the doctrines and teachings of the greatest Roman and Greek philosophers who had ever lived. Sadly, as we can easily see by the previous example, despite that fact, such worldly wisdom of men did not lead them to the truth, which can only be found in the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. In their utter foolishness, as well as due to their desire for profit, they preferred their idols to Jesus. In fact, in the Gospel of John, Jesus even said that such people are not even capable of receiving the Spirit of Truth. Consider these two verses:

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

John 14:16-17, KJV

In similar fashion, in his two Epistles to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote that because the people of the world consider themselves to be so wise in their own eyes, and because they do not have the Spirit of God, they are unable to even begin understanding the true wisdom which is being conveyed to them through the preaching of the Gospel. As he writes in the following verses, they consider the Gospel to be pure foolishness:

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God . . . For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, KJV

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he

know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

Furthermore, the Apostle Paul writes in this same chapter that it is because of this very same empty, worldly wisdom with which they have chosen to fill their minds and hearts, that God is unable to even use such people in His service, as we see by the following verses:

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."

1 Corinthians 1:26-29, KJV

Clearly then, the idea of being wise in our own eyes is not being very wise at all. In fact, it is quite foolish, vain, and is a product of human pride. This very same message is conveyed in the following group of verses:

"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."

Proverbs 3:7, KJV

"Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!"

Isaiah 5:21, KJV

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."

Romans 1:22-23, KJV

"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits."

Romans 12:16, KJV

"Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.

For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

1 Corinthians 3:18-19, KJV

". . . we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."

1 Corinthians 8:1-2, KJV

What we see then, is that it is only those people who can accept the Spirit of Truth with the faith and meekness of a child, who are capable of not only receiving true wisdom, but in the end, Salvation as well. I likewise discuss this same subject in the article entitled "The Faith of a Little Child". Consider the following group of verses:

". . . I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes"  
Matthew 11:25, KJV

". . . Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."  
Luke 18:16, KJV

"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls."  
James 1:21, KJV

Please understand that it really doesn't matter whether these ancient traditions and philosophies of men are of Jewish or Gentile origin. The end result is still the same; and that is that such traditions, philosophies and human wisdom do not and cannot lead a person to the One who paid the price for our Salvation. They in fact work against and weaken faith in God and His Word. If you doubt that this is so, consider how many young people enter college as Christians of one flavor or another, but then graduate a few years later as complete atheists, because they were bombarded with so many lies which caused them to doubt their faith.

The aforementioned disciplines basically elevate man to the status of being his own god. It all amounts to pretentious head-stuffing which inflates one's pride and ego, resulting in one placing confidence in themselves, instead of in God and

His Word. It is secular humanism through and through. As the Apostle Paul wrote "knowledge puffeth up." This is something I discuss in the series "John Lennon's 'Imagine' and Secular Humanism". However, God will accept anyone who is willing to forsake these foolish things of the world, humble himself, and sincerely express faith in the Sacrifice of His dear Son. Why? Because God is no respecter of persons. Consider the following group of verses:

"And if ye call on the Father, who WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"  
1 Peter 1:17-19, KJV

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:"  
Acts 10:34, KJV

"For there is no respect of persons with God."  
Romans 2:11, KJV

"And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him."  
Ephesians 6:9, KJV

While due to their own ignorance and hardheartedness, the ancient Jews rejected the Words of Life, we know from the Scriptures that God does not make mistakes. He has a purpose and a plan for everything that He does. In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul brings out this very point when he writes the following. In these verses, Paul explains that the Jews' rejection of their own Messiah, actually worked towards the Salvation of the Gentiles. Then, because the Gentiles have accepted Christ, they can then turn back to the unbelieving Jews and reach them with the Gospel as well:

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For

this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:25-33, KJV

Perhaps one of the most demonically-deceptive lies I have heard, which has been circulating within New Age circles for a number of years now, concerns a personage by the name of Apollonius of Alexandria. I really don't know whether or not such a man ever really existed. However, it is what is being said regarding this man which should alarm every Christian. Without going into a lot of detail, suffice it to say that, according to the people who have swallowed this lie, Jesus Christ was only a mythological figure who was styled after the "true christ", whom they claim was in reality Apollonius of Alexandria.

This man is said to have performed great miracles, possessed great strength, and is purported to have travelled all over the known world conversing with, and learning from, the greatest philosophers and sages of his time. In fact, within the material I read, an attempt is made to either equate him with the Apostle Paul, or else to say that he is the "Apollo" who is mentioned by Paul in some of his Epistles. This idea is the furthest thing from the truth and is merely a satanic, damnable lie! This man's fame became so widespread that some folks eventually equated him with Hercules of Roman and Greek mythology. In short, he was given the status of a god. If you ever come across this material, I strongly urge you to not even read it, being as it will definitely test your faith in the one true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. It is full of extremely strong delusion.

The previous examples from both Jewish and Gentile history regarding the Hellenistic Jews, the Ephesians and Apollonius of Alexandria, clearly demonstrate the negative effects of such worldly wisdom and philosophies. As I said, these ideas are very dangerous, because they discredit God, can totally

rob one of their faith in Jesus Christ, and purposely exalt man as his own type of god without any real need of the true God of Heaven. Such philosophies and ideologies are a very secular, humanistic approach to life. Let me remind you one more time of what the Apostle Paul wrote:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Colossians 2:8, KJV

It is precisely for these reasons that it can be extremely difficult to reach those people who have involved themselves in such studies for any appreciable amount of time. Before the Lord can even begin to use such people, He sometimes has to tear down and root out all of the crap with which they have foolishly filled their minds and hearts. It reminds me of what the Lord told the young boy Jeremiah when He first called him to be a Prophet over the nations. Consider the following verse:

"See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."

Jeremiah 1:10, KJV

Before such people can even be established in the faith, it is first necessary to tear down and to get rid of all of the false, philosophical ideas and erroneous misconceptions which have been stuffed into their heads by "well-meaning" worldly teachers, philosophers and theologians. Once that original foundation has been re-discovered, and once all of the mental rubble has been cleared from their heads, then the process can begin to re-establish their faith upon a more sure Word of prophecy. Then they can be rooted and built up on the one true foundation of Jesus Christ. This is precisely what Paul writes in the two verses preceding Colossians 2:8. Consider the following group of verses:

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

Colossians 2:6-7, KJV

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a

dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"

2 Peter 1:19, KJV

The Apostle Paul referred to this mental rewiring process on a few different occasions in his Epistles as a renewing or washing of the mind and Spirit, or putting on the mind of Christ. Consider the following group of verses:

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2, KJV

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Romans 8:6, KJV

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

2 Corinthians 10:5, KJV

"And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;"

Ephesians 4:23, KJV

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Titus 3:5, KJV

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

In contrast to the above, the Apostle Paul likewise informs us that to think on the things of the flesh, to dwell upon the things of human understanding and reasoning, is to be carnally-minded and not spiritually-minded. He tells us that this will not only put one at odds with God, but that it is also the way of death, and that God will have no part with such a person. Consider the following verses:



"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Romans 8:5-9, KJV

This entire process of being cleansed, renewed and sanctified -- that is, set apart and dedicated to God's service -- is of course a work of God's Spirit, which is accomplished through a careful, diligent study of His Word. This is simply because the more that we allow the Truth of the Light of God's Word to penetrate our minds and hearts, the more the spiritual darkness must flee. Consider the following group of verses which confirm this point:

"BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word."

Psalms 119:9, KJV

"Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

John 15:3, KJV

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

John 17:17, KJV

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men : Part 3

Copyright 1994 - 2023 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 9, 1998

Last Updated : December 12, 2023

Importance Of Being Established In The Faith, Apostle Paul Strengthens The Churches Through Missionary Journeys And His Epistles, Importance Of Building Upon The Right Foundation, Jesus Christ Is The Foundation Stone Of Our Spiritual Temple, Don't Waste Years Studying Misguided Philosophies Of Fallible Men, King Solomon's Wise Admonition, Our Faith Is Established By Diligently Studying The Bible, My Personal Experience With High Education Institutions, Tragic State Of American Public Education System, King David Exalts God's Word Because God Does So Himself, Jesus Is The Word Incarnate Who Leads Us To The Father, Should We Look For Truth Outside Of God's Word?, The Truth Shall Make You Free, Our Coming Resurrected Bodies, Jesus Spoke The Truth And Rebuked The Unbelieving Jews For Not Believing Him, Spirit Of Truth, Self-Promoting Gurus And Philosophers, Simon The Sorcerer, Modern Liars And Deceivers, Signs Of A True Teacher And Prophet, Putting The Darkness For Light, God's Wisdom And Spiritual Guidance Is Available For The Asking, The Clear Distinction Between Divine Wisdom And Earthly Wisdom, Desire And Seek Wisdom Which Comes From Above

Continuing our discussion from part two, once we are renewed in heart, mind and Spirit through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as well as through a diligent study of God's Word, a number of the Epistle writers inform us of the importance of remaining firmly established in the faith. This is precisely why the Apostle Paul undertook his missionary journeys once he had helped to establish the churches in Asia Minor and in the surrounding regions of the Mediterranean Sea, as we can determine by this verse:

"And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do."  
Acts 15:36, KJV

Consider also this example which we find at the end of the Apostle Paul's Epistle to the Disciples at Rome where he assures them that the Lord is able to "stablish" -- or establish -- them in the Gospel:

"Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my

gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. [Written to the Romans from Corinthus, [and sent by Phebe servant of the church at Cenchrea.]]"

Romans 16:25-27, KJV

Likewise in his first Epistle to the Church at Thessalonika, the Apostle Paul writes regarding how he's sending Timotheus in order to strength the faith of the Thessalonian brethren, and to comfort them in their tribulation, as we see by these two verses:

"Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:"

1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, KJV

In the final chapter of his Epistle, the Apostle James also makes similar remarks regarding how important it is to be grounded and established in the faith. Please consider these two verses:

"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

James 5:7-8, KJV

And finally, the Apostle Peter also stresses the importance of establishing our faith, knowing exactly what we believe, so that we are not devoured by the lies and doubts of Satan. Consider these four verses which are found in Peter's first Epistle:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto

his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 5:8-11, KJV

Thus, we can plainly see how vitally important it is that we are firmly established in the faith, and that we're building upon the right foundation. As we briefly discussed earlier, that foundation is of course none other than Jesus Christ and His Word. In describing the importance of laying the right foundation, Jesus stated the following in one of His many Parables:

"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

Luke 6:47-49, KJV

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus clearly identifies Himself as the foundation stone upon which His Church would be built. Here are a few Scriptural examples for your consideration:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:42, KJV

The Apostle Paul also clearly defines Jesus Christ as the Spiritual Rock, and as the only foundation upon which we should establish our faith, and build the spiritual temple of His Church. Consider the following set of verses:

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant,

how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, KJV

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 3:9-11, KJV

In fact, even the Apostle Peter, whom many people -- most notably the Roman Catholics -- have confused as being the rock which Jesus was referring to in the Gospels, points out that Jesus Christ was, and is, the chief cornerstone of His spiritual house, or temple. Consider the following group of verses:

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."

1 Peter 2:4-6, KJV

Now, it should seem obvious to most Christians that the way in which we are supposed to establish and strengthen our faith is clearly NOT by wasting years of our lives studying the vain wisdom and misguided philosophies of fallible men which is found in the countless volumes they have written over the centuries. King Solomon, who was one of the wisest men to have ever lived, after spending his own life doing just such a thing, summarized his own thoughts regarding this very issue when he said the following in the Book of Ecclesiastes:

"And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

Ecclesiastes 12:12, KJV

My friends, true faith and wisdom is simply not to be found in such voluminous works of fallible men, many of whom did not even know -- or much less accept -- Jesus Christ. As I noted earlier, such books may stuff your head with a lot of wise sayings and interesting proverbs -- and inflate your ego along the way, because "knowledge puffeth up" -- but it is only through carefully and diligently studying the Book which speaks of the One who saved us where our faith can be firmly established. The Scriptures are very clear regarding this issue. Consider the following group of verses:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Psalms 119:11, KJV

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:17, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

1 Peter 2:2, KJV

"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."

Colossians 3:16, KJV

So as you can plainly see, it is through earnestly reading and studying the Word of God with an open mind and heart, that not only is our wisdom increased, but we're also firmly established in the faith. Now, how you personally choose to do this is a decision which you alone must make. However, let me state for the record that due to the reasons I have already outlined herein, personally, I have never undertaken to study at any kind of higher education institution. This includes not attending any kind of seminary or Bible college. I am simply a high school graduate. Quite frankly, I am none the worse for not having done so.

In fact, to be honest, I don't doubt that I am much better off for not having attended any such institutions, because I didn't allow my mind to be filled with such useless, worldly mental clutter. Let's face it. As children, we all received enough ungodly knowledge as it was in the public education system. Tragically, it is much, much worse now than it was when I was a young boy sixty years ago. Not only has the US public education system been really dumbed down, but it has been totally dominated by the liberal mindset, so that now young, impressionable kids are constantly being bombarded with all kinds of disgusting and ungodly ideas. As I state in other articles, it is the Devil's veritable playground.

But concerning myself, now that I am an adult -- and an old one at that -- and can choose for myself, instead of being forced-fed by the ungodly System, I much prefer to depend solely upon the Lord and His Holy Spirit as my one and only Teacher. If there is one thing I can say, it is that He has never failed me yet. As you may know, King David likewise sought direct guidance from the Lord as he studied His Word. Consider what David says in the following verse:

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Psalms 119:18, KJV

As you probably know, King David wrote many inspiring Psalms in which he exalted the Word of the Lord. In fact, one of my favorite Psalms happens to be Psalm 119. I encourage you to read it for yourself. And come to think of it, why shouldn't David stress the importance of the Word? As he says in this next verse, the Lord has magnified His Word above His very Name!:

"I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."

Psalms 138:2, KJV

If the Lord exalts His Word above His Name, shouldn't we, His children, likewise exalt His Word above all in our lives as well? Or should we exalt the words of other philosophers and theologians and gurus? Notice how David equates the Word with truth. Jesus did this very same thing throughout the Gospels. In fact, not only are we told that He is the Word Incarnate, but that Jesus is also the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In

other words, He shows us the Way to the Father by speaking the Father's Truth to us. And if we accept that Truth -- that is, that Jesus came to die for our sins -- then we truly can inherit Everlasting Life. Consider the following two verses:

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth . . . For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

John 1:14, 17, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

Contrary to all of the Biblical truths I have presented here thus far, certain people still foolishly insist that wisdom, knowledge and truth can be gained through the study of the various teachings of all of these supposedly "learned" sages, philosophers and theologians. These people erroneously state that since God is the Author of all Truth, in our search for truth, we should not restrict ourselves to the Bible alone. In their eyes, the Bible is not the only source of wisdom and truth, so we should be willing to look outside of the Bible.

Now, I will agree that, yes, we can certainly acquire a lot of knowledge outside of the Bible. In fact, depending on the topic, as I write my articles and series, I myself will often surf the Internet looking for historical information and such to fill in the gaps in my writings. Even I recognize that the Internet is a great research tool. But regarding wisdom and truth, that is where it begins to become a bit iffy for me. I mean, why do I need the wisdom of worldly philosophers when I have the pure Wisdom which is found in God's Word?

While I obviously cannot speak for the children of the world, as a Christian, I do have to ask why anyone who claims to be a sincere, dedicated, Bible-believing Christian would want to even study the philosophical works of such worldly, fallible men. What can they gain from them, that they can't gain from studying the Bible? I view this unhealthy desire for secular wisdom to be nothing short of tragic, and a fatal error in judgment. As I explained earlier, these people have already been blinded to the Truth, and are in bondage to the forces of darkness without even realizing it. However, as I explain in the article called "What Does 'The Truth Shall Make You Free' Really Mean?", Jesus can still set them free if they



will just turn to Him and to His Word. Consider what Jesus said in the following two verses:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."  
John 8:31-32, KJV

You see my friends, not only can we be spiritually set free in this current life, but as I explain in the aforementioned article, someday when our bodies of flesh finally wear out, if we have trusted in Jesus, we will also be set free from the bondage of sin and death into the glorious liberty of the Children of God, when we finally receive our new, glorified, incorruptible, resurrected bodies, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"  
Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."  
Romans 8:21-23, 29, KJV

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:"  
Colossians 1:15, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but

clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."  
2 Corinthians 5:1-4, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."  
Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."  
1 John 3:2, KJV

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."  
1 Corinthians 15:40-52, KJV

Wow! Isn't that just wonderful?! It is something which I most certainly look forward to! How about you? To continue, over and over again in the Gospels, Jesus said that He spoke the Truth for those people who were willing to believe. Consider this group of verses which are found in the Gospel of John where Jesus is harshly rebuking the unbelieving Jews:

"But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham . . . And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not . . . Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"  
John 8:40, 45-46, KJV

While over the centuries many worldly sages and philosophers have sought to elevate themselves by promoting their own brand of human wisdom, and their own particular version of the truth outside of the Holy Scriptures, consider how the real Spirit of Truth operates according to Jesus' own words:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for HE SHALL NOT SPEAK OF HIMSELF; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."  
John 16:13, KJV

Isn't this true even in our modern day? There are now so many vain, puffed up men who spout off their philosophical ideas and their worthless, worldly wisdom, as they endeavor to draw crowds to themselves, so that they might receive the praises of men. They are found all over the world, and they come from many different backgrounds and religions. I was just reminded of the account of the sorcerer, Simon, who is mentioned in the eighth chapter of the Book of Acts. Please notice how Simon viewed himself in the following verse:

"But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:"  
Acts 8:9, KJV

My friends, beware of such boastful men! For as I point out in the series "Lying Wonders of the Endtime" and in related articles, these people are deceivers and false prophets who either intentionally, or ignorantly, poison the flocks of God with their lies and vain, philosophical ramblings! On the other hand, a true Prophet and teacher of the Lord will always, and without fail, point you only to God and His holy Word. Likewise, he will never contradict God's Word. He will never point to himself, or to some vain, empty, misguided philosophy of fallible men! Let me likewise add that if such a person claims to be a Prophet of God, then his words will come to pass. Lastly, as Jesus very clearly indicated in the Gospel of John, the only Word of Truth, is the Word of His

Father. Consider the following two verses:

"And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."  
Ezekiel 33:33, KJV

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."  
John 17:17, KJV

If these so-called "enlightened" individuals aren't speaking the Words of the Father, then as I already stated, they are liars and deceivers, they are speaking from the vanity of their own minds, and they are walking in spiritual darkness. They certainly are NOT walking in the Light of God. As such, unless you are extremely careful, they could very well lead you into their very same darkness too, unless you wise up! While these misguided people call their darkness, light, the truth of the matter is that it is the exact opposite, as the Prophet Isaiah warns in the following verse:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"  
Isaiah 5:20, KJV

It is very important that we realize that real Divine Truth comes from the Lord. It is NOT just a philosophical invention which is born in our own minds. It is not some cool saying we use to impress people with our mental faculty. What we also need to realize is that God's spiritual Wisdom and Divine Guidance is freely available to anyone who wishes to ask for it with an open, sincere heart. This truth becomes apparent by verses such as the following:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"  
Luke 11:13, KJV

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."  
John 14:26, KJV

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be

given him."

James 1:5, KJV

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,"

Ephesians 1:17-18, KJV

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;"

Colossians 1:9, KJV

Thus, it should be recognized by now that there is a very clear distinction between the Divine Wisdom which comes down from above, and the carnal, satanic, misleading wisdom which originates within the vain hearts and minds of rebellious, evil men who don't even acknowledge the Lord in their lives. Even John the Baptist, who was a man without any impressive earthly credentials or theological training, recognized the Wisdom which was found in the Words of Jesus Christ when he said the following:

"He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all."

John 3:31, KJV

Jesus further emphasized this difference between Himself and the vain doctrines and traditions which were believed and practiced by the Jewish religious leaders when He told them the following. They were on a totally different level from the Lord:

"And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world."

John 8:23, KJV

Clearly then, the Wisdom which we should all be desiring and seeking is the Heavenly Wisdom and Guidance which comes from God alone. We should not be enticed by, mesmerized by, or seduced by the fleshly, earthly theologies and philosophies of corrupt, misguided men. Consider the following group of

verses:

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"

1 Corinthians 2:7, KJV

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;"

1 Corinthians 12:8, KJV

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

James 1:17, KJV

"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

James 3:17, KJV

Please go to part four for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men : Part 4

Copyright 1994 - 2023 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 9, 1998

Last Updated : December 12, 2023

Earthly Sensual Devilish Wisdom Of The World, Avoid Secular Philosophies And The Vain Deceptions Of Men, The Apostle Paul Emphasized Simplicity Of The Gospel Message, Era Of Greek And Roman Philosophers And Orators, "Having Itching Ears" To Hear Some New Thing, Moses And Apostle Paul Were Weak And Meek Men, Making The Cross Of Christ Of None Effect, Why Some Preachers Speak With Big Swelling Words, Jesus Used Simple Parables To Teach About God's Kingdom, Devil Is The Author Of Confusion,

Stick To Salvation Basics And Don't Complicate Your Message,  
Become All Things To All Men In Order To Win People To Jesus,  
Beware Of Spiritless Witnessing, Be Properly Prepared Before  
Attempting To Be A Public Witness Of Your Faith, Nothing More  
Powerful Than Word Of God, Do Not Waste Time With Reprobates,  
Be A Bold Witness Of Your Faith, Ask God For His Wisdom And  
Spiritual Discernment, Jehovah's Witnesses: The Wrong Way To  
Witness To People, God's Wisdom Versus Worldly Wisdom, Itching  
Ears And An Increase In Knowledge, Quest For Obtaining Higher  
Education, In Debt For Life, Challenging God's Sacred Truths

Continuing our discussion from part three, as we learned in  
part one of this series, the Apostle James warns his readers  
that not all wisdom is good or comes from above. In fact, he  
wrote that some of it is actually earthly, sensual, devilish  
and evil. Let me share those verses with you one more time:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly,  
sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is  
confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from  
above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be  
intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality,  
and without hypocrisy."

James 3:15-17, KJV

As we have also seen, the Apostle Paul told his readers many  
times which wisdom to seek after. He likewise warned them  
regarding which kind of wisdom they should outright avoid.  
In other words, secular philosophies and vain deceptions of  
the world. Let me also share that verse with you one more  
time to emphasize this point:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain  
deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of  
the world, and not after Christ."

Colossians 2:8, KJV

In the following group of verses, the Apostle Paul reminds  
his readers how when he came to share the Gospel with them,  
he did not try to impress them by speaking great, swelling  
words of worldly wisdom as so many modern preachers like to  
do. He in fact kept his message plain and simple. He spoke  
to them in their own language, so that anyone could easily  
understand him, and thus receive the Gift of Salvation:

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, LET HIM DO IT WITH SIMPLICITY; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12:8, KJV

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: NOT WITH WISDOM OF WORDS, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

1 Corinthians 1:17, KJV

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came NOT WITH EXCELLENCY OF SPEECH OR OF WISDOM, declaring unto you the testimony of God."

1 Corinthians 2:1, KJV

"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, THAT IN SIMPLICITY and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward."

2 Corinthians 1:12, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be CORRUPTED FROM THE SIMPLICITY that is in Christ."

2 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

If we stop for a moment and think about the time in which the Apostle Paul lived, it makes perfect sense that he would write to the brethren in this manner. After all, his was the time of great Greek and Roman philosophers and orators who just loved to amaze the crowds with their wisdom and human insights. It was a haughty, proud display of human intellect which proceeded from the vanity of their own minds. I am reminded of what Luke wrote in the Book of Acts regarding how the Greeks just loved to hear a new thing. This goes right along with what Paul wrote regarding people seeking teachers because they have itching ears. Consider this set of verses:

"Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these



things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, OR TO HEAR SOME NEW THING.)"

Acts 17:18-21, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, HAVING ITCHING EARS;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

The previous verses are rather interesting. Notice Paul's usage of the words "not with wisdom of words" and "not with excellency of speech or of wisdom". As I said, Paul's goal was NOT to try to impress his readers or listeners by using great, swelling words of worldly wisdom. His goal was only to accomplish one thing, and that was to reach people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was to help them to understand the gravity of their sinful condition, and their need for a Savior. Period. He was not in competition with the Greek and Roman philosophers and orators of his day.

In fact, speaking of the phrase "not with excellency of speech", according to the Scriptures, it appears that Paul was not only not very strong in a physical sense, but even in his manner of speaking, apparently, he was not a powerful orator. Contrary to the way Paul has been portrayed in some movies, he was perhaps rather meek, just as Moses was also described as being meek in the Old Testament. I am reminded of the following Scriptures which seem to verify these two points:

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Numbers 12:3, KJV

"For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible."

2 Corinthians 10:10, KJV

From my own observations, and due to my own experiences over the years with various newsgroups, message forums, mailing lists and social networks, I understand exactly what Paul is talking about in the previous verses. Please notice that he clearly writes that employing this method of witnessing -- in other words, using difficult-to-understand and swelling words -- makes the Cross of Christ "of none effect". Do you know why this is? If not, let me explain it to you.

It is all really quite simple. As I mentioned a moment ago, there are some preachers of the Gospel, both online as well as offline, who because of their own pride and vanity, feel that they have to impress their audience. They also do not want to be outshined by other popular preachers. Therefore, when they preach, they use a whole lot of big fancy words in order to appear well-versed and educated. After all, they have attended some prestigious Bible college, and they have acquired their degrees in this, that or the other. So they need to demonstrate that it has made them a better preacher. You know, if you stop and think about it, this really isn't that different from the ancient Greek and Roman orators and philosophers who probably did the very same thing.

But as I already said, where the problem arises is in the simple fact that if you are using such big, fancy words, and basically speaking or writing above your intended audience's heads, then what in the world is the point of it all? If they are not even able to understand what you are saying to them, then your preaching is in fact "of none effect", because no one is even going to understand the gravity of their personal situation without Christ, and much less arrive at a point of Salvation. In other words, your words won't have the desired effect that you want them to have. Sure, you may feel great about yourself, and think that you have delivered a wonderful sermon, but so what! If it bears no fruit, it is pointless. Now do you understand?

As I point out in the series "Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation", this proud manner of preaching is totally contrary to the Lord's own method of witnessing and teaching. As I explain in that series, Jesus used simple Parables which His listeners would easily relate to and understand. For example, He would use such things as nets, fish, seeds, weather, trees, wheat, tares and other things which were familiar to His listeners. So to reiterate this point, it is very important to remember that when we share the Gospel message with somebody, we need to adhere to the simplicity of the Gospel in our witness. If we are not willing to do this, if we just want to impress them with our Bible knowledge, then we might as well forget it and just go home.

In actuality, one of Satan's tricks is to try to complicate things, and to make everything confusing. After all, as you may know, he is the author of confusion. To emphasize that

point again, we must remember that the message of Salvation can be simplified into one basic fact: We are all sinners in need of a Savior; and that Savior is Jesus Christ. That is all people need to know and understand. They don't need to hear some long theological argument from you which will only leave them confused, and leave you lifted up in your pride. They just need the basic facts so they can make a decision. A lot of them are too simple-minded, or else they are not very knowledgeable of the Bible to understand most of it anyway. Remember what the Apostle Paul also wrote in his Epistle to the Hebrews:

"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

Hebrews 5:12-14, KJV

Now, once a person has accepted the Lord, it is at that point where you can begin to teach them whatever else you feel they need to know. I can understand that perhaps through some of these long, eloquent conversations, some of these Christians are just honestly trying to follow Paul's advice of becoming all things to all men that they might win some. I'm referring to what Paul wrote in the following verses:

"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you."

1 Corinthians 9:19-23, KJV

If this is their true motivation, then I applaud them for their patience and perseverance. On the other hand, there is also such a thing as taking this too far. I have personally witnessed certain Christians who will be earnestly involved

in a conversation with someone whom they are trying to win to the cause of Christ, who in my view do not appear to be much different from the person they are witnessing to. What happens is that the individual who is doing the witnessing becomes involved in a long, drawn-out, dry, spiritless kind of conversation which has devolved into nothing more than a battle of wits and human pride. They are fruitless, empty conversations which go nowhere fast.

Why does this happen sometimes? One reason may be because the person who is doing the witnessing just wants to impress the other individual by appearing to be on the same level in a scholastic or theological sense. Or perhaps it is because he is afraid that he might offend the other person if he quotes too many Bible verses. Thus, he ends up going to the opposite extreme and hardly quotes any at all. Lastly, perhaps it is possibly because the person who is doing the witnessing is a babe in Christ and simply doesn't know enough verses from the Bible to respond effectively to the person he is talking to. As a result, he resorts to depending on his human knowledge.

If that is the case, then perhaps such a person should not even be out on the witnessing field yet. Maybe they need to spend more time first really getting themselves anchored in God's Word. As we discussed earlier in this series, they need to be firmly established in the faith. That includes having at least a small arsenal of Scriptures they can use while out on the witnessing field. The truth of the matter is that in this day and age, street witnessing is not such an easy job. There are a lot of hard-hearted, mean-spirited and highly-educated people out there who will chew up a babe in Christ. So it pays to be properly prepared by possessing a firm foundation in God's Word.

If there is one thing I know for certain, it is that there is nothing more powerful than the Word of God. Human philosophy and vain deceits -- as the Apostle Paul writes -- are nothing compared to it. It is for that reason that when I write my articles and series, I do my very best to fill them with as much straight Scripture as possible. After all, if people are not convinced by God's Word, then nothing will convince them. Certainly not my mere human words. As we find written in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a

discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12, KJV

Frankly, whenever I see the aforementioned dry conversations occurring, where not a single Bible verse is quoted in post after post, it makes me wonder about the person who is doing the witnessing. As those of you who know me will realize, my approach is entirely different. As I already said, I believe in exalting the Word of God, whether people like it or not. I like to cut to the chase and get down to the facts. There is no point in wasting our time with unbelieving reprobates who do not have the slightest interest in what we have to say to them, and who in fact totally despise it anyway.

We need to always remember to balance one verse with another. In other words, while the Lord did instruct His followers to bring forth fruit with patience and perseverance, as we see in the Parable of the Sower in Luke chapter fifteen, He also instructed them to not cast their pearls before swine, or to give that which is holy -- meaning the Word of God -- to the dogs. Furthermore, Jesus instructed the Disciples to shake off the dust from their feet when people refused to receive their witness. This is in fact precisely what we see Apostle Paul doing in the Book of Acts when certain unbelieving Jews rejected His message. Consider the following group of verses which confirm these various points:

"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

Matthew 7:6, KJV

"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet."

Matthew 10:14, KJV

"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles."

Acts 13:45-46, KJV

Sadly, some Christians are just so namby-pamby that they are

afraid to offend anybody, particularly in today's atmosphere of sickening political correctness. However, as I explain in articles such as "Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?" and "Do You Stand Up for Your Faith?", we cannot allow ourselves to be pressured into silence by an unbelieving world. We need to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, come what may. This fact becomes evident by verses such as the following:

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16, KJV

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."  
Matthew 7:28-29, KJV

"And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes."  
Mark 1:21-22, KJV

"But, lo, he speaketh BOLDLY, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?"  
John 7:26, KJV

"Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus . . . And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all BOLDNESS they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with BOLDNESS."  
Acts 4:13, 29-31, KJV

"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."  
Acts 5:29, KJV

"But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached BOLDLY at

Damascus in the name of Jesus. And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. And he spake BOLDLY in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him."

Acts 9:27-29, KJV

"Long time therefore abode they speaking BOLDLY in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."

Acts 14:3, KJV

"And he began to speak BOLDLY in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly."

Acts 18:26, KJV

"And he went into the synagogue, and spake BOLDLY for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God."

Acts 19:8, KJV

"Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more BOLDLY unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,"

Romans 15:15, KJV

"And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth BOLDLY, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Ephesians 6:19-20, KJV

"According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all BOLDNESS, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

Philippians 1:20, KJV

"So that we may BOLDLY say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Hebrews 13:6, KJV

"He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light."

John 5:35, KJV

"Quench not the Spirit."

1 Thessalonians 5:19, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38, KJV

At the same time, we also need to learn to have Spiritual Discernment, and to know when we should bleat like a lamb with the hungry sheep, and when we should roar like a lion with the unbelieving reprobates. We also need to ask God to give us His wisdom so that we do not waste our precious time with those people who are just unworthy of, and who have no interest in, God's Grace and Mercy through Jesus Christ.

Let me remind you again that when we are witnessing, we are not to try to impress people with our own wisdom and human knowledge, or even with our knowledge of the Bible, because it will be totally ineffective, exactly as the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 1:17. Not only that, but such a proud attitude will in fact offend and turn off a lot of people.

You will find a perfect example of this type of misguided, know-it-all witnessing with the Jehovah's Witnesses. If you have ever had an encounter with them -- Ha! Who hasn't? -- then you will know exactly what I am talking about, right? They are one very proud, pushy, bullheaded, argumentative group of people. They are not the least bit interested in what a person has to say. All they want to do is prove that they are right about everything, and that you, the listener, are wrong. Aside from that, their primary goal is to try to get you to accept some of their literature. It is truly sad, and their pushiness has turned many people against them. I won't even open my door to them anymore, or to the Mormons for that matter. I have had enough encounters with both.

Returning to our primary topic regarding relying upon human wisdom and philosophy versus trusting in God's Wisdom, God's Word and Spiritual Discernment, here are a few more verses which plainly tell us that we must never resort to carnal, earthy, human wisdom insofar as our witnessing endeavors are concerned. Rather we must always rely solely on the Wisdom, Truth and Power of God's Holy Spirit. After all, by so doing not only does our Father truly receive all of the Glory that belongs to Him alone, but in this way, we can also bear the most fruit for His Kingdom:



"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:"  
1 Corinthians 2:4-7, KJV

"Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."  
1 Corinthians 2:13, KJV

"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, KJV

"Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist."  
Luke 21:14-15, KJV

"And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake."  
Acts 6:10, KJV

Earlier, I mentioned how in his second Epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul issued a prophetic warning regarding a future time when people would be totally given over to a pursuit of worldly wisdom and knowledge. They would even seek out teachers to instruct them in those things which are not of the Lord; or as Paul wrote "not endure sound doctrine". This reminds me of another verse which I have shared before which is found in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Daniel. Let me share both of those verses with you side by side:

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, HAVING ITCHING EARS;"  
2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book,

even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Daniel 12:4, KJV

While we can debate regarding exactly what time period the Prophet Daniel and the Apostle Paul were referring to, there is simply no denying that this type of situation exists in our modern day for sure. For many decades now, obtaining a higher education has been emphasized and promoted as the way to advance in one's personal life and job, and get ahead of the rest of the common herd of humanity. There are now so many colleges and universities which teach a vast array of courses, that it is absolutely mind-boggling to contemplate it all.

Of course, attending one of the more prestigious places of higher learning does not come cheap. However, because people are so desperate to get ahead, and because they have bought into the hype, they are willing to invest everything they've got in order to obtain the holy grail of a college degree. Sadly, many people, including young people, have gone into very serious debt in order to achieve their lofty goals. It is indeed tragic that some folks have lost their properties -- including their very homes and other valuable possessions -- when they were unable to pay back the debt with interest. In fact, some people are so overextended, that even if they live to be one hundred years old, they will still never be able to pay back their debt. Personally, I have to wonder if it is really worth it all.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, "knowledge puffeth up". This is certainly true in our own time, being as man has become so lifted up in his own pride, and in the vanity of his own mind, that he now dares to even challenge the sacred truths of God's holy Word. In other words, he's replaced the Truth of the Bible with such evil things as evolution, same-sex "marriage", transgenderism, and other wicked lies which were born in the very bowels of Hell. Likewise, he's hired vile, liberal-minded teachers to pollute the minds of our children in the classroom. Sadly, at this point in time, parents are increasingly becoming powerless to do anything about it. But concerning all of these modern evils, let me remind you one more time of what the Apostle James wrote:

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish."

James 3:15, KJV

Please go to part five for the conclusion of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

The Wisdom of God vs the Philosophy of Men : Part 5

Copyright 1994 - 2023 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : April 9, 1998

Last Updated : December 12, 2023

Negative Fruit Of Increased Knowledge, Inflated Egos, Loss Of Fear Of God, Lack Of Respect For God's Word, Science Is The New God Which Promises Eternal Life Without Faith In Christ, Paul's Missionary Journeys And Encounters With The Bored Educated Class, The Epicurean And Stoic pPhilosophers, Paul Preaches On Mars' Hill In Athens, The Woman Of Samaria, Why The Jews Disliked The Samaritans, Why The Jews Despised Jesus, Why Bother Studying Human Philosophy? Very Rewarding Experience Studying The Scriptures, Treasures Of God's Word, God's Word Is Too Profound For Us To Understand Completely, Jesus Mary And Martha, The Apostle Paul's Origin And Career, Paul Appears Before Festus King Herod Agrippa II And Queen Bernice, Did Paul Study Greek And Roman Philosophy?, Jewish Attitude Towards Gentiles, Why Paul Most Likely Did Not Study Greek And Roman Philosophers, Paul Was Taught Directly By The Lord, Paul's Work At The School Of Tyrannus, We Have No Need For The Wisdom Or Philosophies Of Fallible Men, Sit At Jesus' Feet And Study The Bible, Jealous God, Ask God To Reveal The Truth To You, He Will Deliver And Lead You To The Truth Of His Word And Nowhere Else, Jesus Warned Of False Teachers And Prophets Who Came Before And After Him, God's Peace And Joy Versus Satan's Doubts Confusion And Depression, Look To Jesus, Closing Remarks, BBB Suggesting Reading List

As I concluded in part four, this huge increase in the pool of human knowledge -- which has included the study of the

works of the ancient philosophers, as well as advancements primarily in the areas of science and medicine -- has sadly resulted in some very negative fruit. In his vain quest to glorify his own mind and exalt himself as the master of his own fate, man's ego has become so seriously inflated, that he no longer even fears God, or feels the need to believe in God, and even dares to challenge the very laws of human behavior which God established from the beginning of time.

Instead of embracing the truth of the Holy Scriptures, many people have become puffed up in the vanity of their minds, and foolishly push God and His Word to the side, while they turn to science as their new god. This new god promises to someday cure all diseases, and to extend life indefinitely; not through faith in Jesus Christ, but through medicine, cybernetics, nanotechnology, and related disciplines. I am reminded of what the Psalmist wrote in the following verse:

"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."  
Psalm 10:4, KJV

The prediction which the Apostle Paul made in 2 Timothy 4:3 regarding people having itching ears and embracing doctrines which are not of God may have possibly been inspired in part by Paul's own encounters and experiences during his multiple missionary journeys throughout Syria, Cilicia, Asia Minor, Greece, etc. Many times he encountered "educated" Jews and Gentiles who were so bored with their intellectual lives, that all they longed for was to hear something new to tickle their ears. They were not the least bit interested in the Truth and Wisdom of God. Consider the following example of Paul's encounter with the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. The Stoics had been around since about 300 B.C. with their fatalist philosophy of indifference:

"Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)"

Acts 17:18-21, KJV

So the Apostle Paul obliged those proud people as he stood up on Mars' Hill in Athens and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to them. As you can see by the verses below, sadly, the results were far different from the thousands of people which we see being won to the Lord in Jerusalem in the first few chapters of the Book of Acts. Far away from the original happenings of the Gospels, these heathen were still involved in their pagan beliefs. Not only that, but they were simply too wise in their own eyes to accept the foolishness of the Gospel, and the idea that people could be resurrected from the dead:

"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them."

Acts 17:32-34, KJV

Considering that Mars' Hill was a popular place for orators, it is possible that there may have been hundreds, and maybe even thousands of people who heard Paul preach the Gospel that day. In spite of this, only a small handful accepted his words with gladness. Because of their satisfaction with their own worldly wisdom, they were unable to accept the Wisdom and Salvation which comes from above. What is ironic about this, is that these very people who claimed to be so wise, didn't even know what they believed in! Consider how Paul started out his speech to them:

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

Acts 17:22-23, KJV

The fact that the Apostle Paul told those vain fools that they ignorantly worshipped an unknown god, reminds me of something which Jesus also said to the woman of Samaria in John chapter four. Please consider the following verse:

"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for

salvation is of the Jews."

John 4:22, KJV

The reason why the Lord may have possibly said this to the woman, is because as I explain in other articles such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", many of the Samaritans were pagans and heathen who had moved into Samaria and northern Palestine during the Assyrian and Babylonian occupations centuries earlier. They worshipped other gods, and not the God of Israel. Some of the Samaritans were biological Jews. However, they were looked down upon by their fellow Jewish brethren further to the south in Judea, not only because of the place where they lived, but also because they were of mixed blood. This is why we are told that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans, as we see by the following verse:

"Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."

John 4:9, KJV

This is also one of the reasons why Jesus was despised by the Jewish religionists in Jerusalem. While He was born in Bethlehem -- which is located about six miles southwest of Jerusalem -- He spent His boyhood, and young adulthood, in Galilee, which was a region located in the extreme north of Palestine, beyond Samaria, to the west of the Jordan River, and bordering what was then a part of Syria. In fact, this is one reason why Jesus spoke Aramaic. It was probably due to this very same reason that Nathanael made the following comment to Philip when he first heard about Jesus:

"And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see."

John 1:46, KJV

Returning to the main topic of this series, considering the overwhelming Scriptural evidence I have presented here which clearly reveals our Heavenly Father's, Jesus', the Apostle Paul's and others' disdain for philosophical knowledge and earthly wisdom, how can any Christian still argue in favor of studying such things? It is for these very reasons that I personally prefer to receive my education directly from the Lord via the Holy Spirit, as we discussed earlier in this series.

Honestly speaking, each time I delve into the Scriptures, it is a new and tremendously inspiring experience. God is more than capable of teaching me all of the Truth that I need to know straight from His Word. Through many hours and years of diligent study, the Lord has led me to uncover many wonderful treasures in His precious goldmine, which I have gladly and freely shared with you, my online friends. I am reminded of the following verse:

"Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."

Matthew 13:52, KJV

Of course, I am by no means the only person who has ever discovered this vast treasure of wisdom which is hidden in God's Word. In the Bible we find a number of verses which reveal how its authors were likewise amazed by how profound God's Word really is. Consider the following sample verses:

"Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

Psalms 119:18, KJV

"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it."

Psalms 139:6, KJV

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33, KJV

". . . For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven."

Psalms 119:89, KJV

". . . Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105, KJV

"Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."

Psalms 119:140, KJV

My friends, in case you were not already aware of it, it is in a one-on-one relationship with the Lord, sitting at His feet -- just as the Disciples and Mary did -- that we all

can truly learn about the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Let me share with you the story of Jesus, Mary and Martha:

"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Luke 10:38-42, KJV

In fact, this is exactly what the Apostle Paul did following his shocking conversion on the road to Damascus. Some people erroneously claim that he was a man of the world who studied the arts and philosophies of his time. In my article called "A Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?", I traced the life of Paul, and I can tell you for a fact that nowhere did I find Paul engaging in any of these activities. What we do know is that Paul was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, which was located just north of Syria. We also know that at an early age, Paul was taken to Jerusalem where he was trained to be a dedicated Pharisee under the tutelage of Gamaliel. Paul tells us these things in his own words in the Book of Acts, as we can verify by the following group of verses:

"But Paul said, I am a man which am a Jew of Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, a citizen of no mean city: and, I beseech thee, suffer me to speak unto the people."

Acts 21:39, KJV

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city [Jerusalem] at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day."

Acts 22:3, KJV

". . . Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question."

Acts 23:6, KJV



While Paul -- then known as Saul -- studied under Gamaliel in Jerusalem, we really have no idea what his specific course of instruction included. Whether it may have included the arts and philosophies is not known. However, there are no hints of this whatsoever in either the Book of Acts, or in Paul's own Epistles. Studying to be a Pharisee was primarily a religious matter, and not a worldly matter. Prior to his conversion, it seems likely that Paul was a lackey of the High Priest and the Sanhedrin, which was the religious council comprised of seventy elders, as had first been formed by Moses in the Old Testament.

Maybe Paul was career-minded and interested in moving up in the ranks. If he wasn't actually a member of the Sanhedrin -- I suspect that he was too young for that at the time -- maybe he was a high-ranking temple guard. After all, for the High Priest to grant him the authority to go after the Christians in Damascus, Saul must have had close ties with him. Saul was their chosen man for the hour. He was a typical man-pleaser who prided himself in observing the Torah. In speaking of his own actions and pharisaical zeal prior to his conversion, Paul writes as follows in his Epistle to the Galatians:

"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers."  
Galatians 1:13-14, KJV

When Paul appeared before Festus, King Herod Agrippa II and his sister Queen Bernice in Acts chapters twenty-five and twenty-six, after having been imprisoned for several years in Caesarea, he informed them of his activities as a very dedicated, angry Pharisee who sought to stamp out the young Christian Church, as we see by the following set of verses:

"I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."  
Acts 26:9-11, KJV

In light of the testimony of Paul's own words, it does not seem likely to me that he engaged in studying such worldly things as Greek and Roman philosophers. Paul was just very deeply involved in his own Jewish religion. In fact, being as he was a Jew, it makes it even less likely that he would do so, because for literally millennia, the Jews viewed the Gentiles as being inferior to themselves. In fact, this is true to this very day as well, as is clearly evidenced by the racist contents of their most holy book, the Babylonian Talmud, which I briefly mentioned in part one of this same series.

That being the case, it is even less likely that Paul took the time to study the philosophers of his era. And even if he did study them due to the Hellenistic influence of that age -- which cannot be proven -- it seems rather obvious from all of his own words which I have presented in this series, that he eventually, and definitely, forsook them at some point following his amazing conversion on the road to Damascus. In fact, I was just reminded of the following verses which are found in his Epistle to the Philippians:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,"  
Philippians 3:7-8, KJV

Of course, in my view, the most powerful verse which reveals Paul's total disdain for worldly traditions, human wisdom and misguided philosophies, is one which I have shared with you several times already. That is, of course, this one:

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."  
Colossians 2:8, KJV

In speaking of his own knowledge of the Lord following his conversion on the road to Damascus, Paul makes it clear in his Epistle to the Galatians that his primary source of information was the Lord Himself, as we can clearly see by the following two verses:

"But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it

of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Galatians 1:11-12, KJV

Between his in-depth knowledge of the Torah, as taught to him by Gamaliel, and his new relationship with the Lord following his amazing life transformation, Paul must have been a real spiritual powerhouse. While Paul did hobnob with the educated class of his day, his purpose in doing so was NOT to embrace their worldly wisdom. Rather, his main goal was to reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We find a clear example of this during one of his journeys to Ephesus. While there, and after having been rejected by the Jews at the local synagogue, Paul had an extended opportunity to preach "in the school of one Tyrannus", as we see by the following group of verses:

"And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

Acts 19:8-10, KJV

Notice carefully that these verses twice state that Paul was "disputing" with them. The Koine Greek word which is used in that particular verse means to dispute or to reason with. So, clearly, Paul was disputing with, reasoning with and trying his best to persuade his listeners to believe in Jesus. In other words, Paul was NOT just calmly accepting their vain, earthly wisdom and philosophical arguments. He was telling them that they needed to forsake such nonsense, and embrace Jesus Christ.

Similar to the Apostle Paul, as I explain in the article "The Only Credentials You Need!", we too have absolutely NO NEED for the wisdom or philosophies of fallible men. Even if there is any worldly wisdom and truth to be found in the writings or teachings of these other philosophers, sages, doctors, New Age gurus, theologians, psychologists, or whatever name or title they may go by, as Bible-believing Christians, why do we even need it? Just like the First Century Disciples, or like Mary, or like the Apostle Paul, or like many others, we

too can sit at the feet of Jesus and have daily fellowship and communion with Him.

My friends, we can sit at the very feet of the Son of God, the Creator of the Universe who knows ALL things! What need is there to go snooping around in the Devil's territory? Do you honestly think that you're going to find something better there? Do you think maybe God is holding out on you? If you do, then beware, because that is the very same lie that the Devil used on Adam and Eve! We are told that our God is a jealous God, and that He will have no other gods before Him. To seek out the vain wisdom of these other worldly men after having known Jesus and His Word, is to slap God in the face! It is for this very reason that the Apostle Paul writes as follows:

"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?"

1 Corinthians 1:19-20, KJV

My friends, if you truly and honestly hunger for the truth in your life, God has promised in His Word that He will reveal it to you, if you humbly and earnestly seek His face and just ask Him to show it to you. Trust me when I say that He will indeed deliver that which you seek. Please consider this set of verses:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

Matthew 7:7-8, KJV

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Matthew 21:22, KJV

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."

1 John 5:14-15, KJV

Before closing, allow me to ask you a few questions. When

you do ask the Lord to show you the truth, and to fill you with His Wisdom, where do you think He is going to lead you? To the philosophical writings of mind-wandering worldly men? To some demon-possessed eastern yogi or maharaja? Or perhaps to some dead, spiritually-dry secular humanist? How about to some deceptive New Age guru or telephone psychic? Or maybe to the questionable quatrains of Nostradamus? Or to Muhammad and his quagmire of the Qur'an? Or how about to all of those phony philosophers and off-the-track teachers such as Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Socrates, Buddha, Pliny, Confucius or Maimonides?

Of course not, my friend! When you ask the Lord to lead you to the source of all Truth and Wisdom, He is going to take you directly to His Book which He authored Himself through His real Prophets and holy men who feared His Name, and who were filled with His real Spirit of Truth! That is exactly where He is going to lead you, and nowhere else! Jesus made His feelings very clear regarding all of these deceptive mind-benders who came before Him, and who would also come after Him. It is made plain as day in the following two verses. Do you believe them?:

"All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them."  
John 10:8, KJV

"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."  
Matthew 24:24, KJV

If you are being led to any of these false philosophers who are clearly condemned in the Bible, then perhaps you need to check your "hotline". Perhaps there is some static in there. If you are feeling depressed, or confused, or negative, or uncertain about the things you are reading, then perhaps it is not of God and you need to abandon it immediately. Please remember that God is not the author of confusion. The Devil is. Consider the following verses:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints."  
1 Corinthians 14:33, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and

abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

John 8:44, KJV

In contrast to all of that worldly nonsense, God's Word will only bring peace and joy into your life. It will not bring doubts, confusion and depression. Likewise, neither will it fill you with false pride and vanity, or with a feeling of superiority. Most of all, reading God's Truth will not cause you to look down to yourself for the answer, or to the world and its so-called "wise" men, or to the north, south, east or west. It will only cause you to look in one direction; and that is straight up to Jesus, who is the Author and the Finisher of your faith, as we see by the following verse:

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:2, KJV

And that, my friends, is the Word of God with a bark on it. In conclusion, I truly hope and pray that this series has shaken up some of you and opened your eyes to the deceptive nature of secular wisdom and human philosophy, as well as the faith-destroying path it may lead you on if you are not careful. If you are already on such a dangerous path, then I hope that this series will motivate you to forsake the ways of darkness, and return to the Right Way and the Right Path, following none other than Jesus Christ, who is the one true Light of the world.

With these thoughts I will bring this series to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. If you have enjoyed reading this series, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this current series, or which contain topics that are related to this series. All of these articles are

likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

A Biblical Cafeteria, Or the Whole Course?

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare!

Do You Stand Up for Your Faith?

Is Science Better Than the Bible?

John Lennon's "Imagine" and Secular Humanism

Lying Wonders of the Endtime

Modern Deceptions: Return to Israel, the Fig Tree and This Generation

Parable of the Sower: Salvation and Service

Science and Technology: The Forbidden Knowledge?

Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed

The Faith of a Little Child

The Fruits of Disobedience

The Office of Prophets and Teachers

The Only Credentials You Need!

The Public School System and School Prayer

Tradition or Truth? Old Wine or New Wine?

What Does 'The Truth Shall Make You Free' Really Mean?

Who is Building Your House?

Written by Bill Kochman

[wordweaver777@gmail.com](mailto:wordweaver777@gmail.com)

<https://www.billkochman.com>