

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO WISDOM AND DISCIPLINE



Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton

Something that I have practiced for many years is to read the corresponding chapter of Proverbs for the day of the month. As I read today the corresponding chapter I was challenged with the question; what has happened to wisdom? It appears today that wisdom has departed almost every area of our society and people are looking for answers in all the wrong places. You turn on the news and instead of hearing something beneficial and uplifting you hear of foolishness, rage, ignorance, crime and the list could go on and on. There is an overwhelming presence of foolishness and outrage permeating our world and people are frustrated and angry. We need again to remember that wisdom comes from above and accompanying it is peace, forgiveness and love.

I want to remind us that knowledge is good but wisdom is even better. We are living in the most knowledgeable age ever, but at the same time ignorance of real truth is running rampant like a wildfire. The purpose of the book of Proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline to help them understand the insights of the wise. Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just and fair. (Proverbs 1:1-2) I encourage you to read Proverbs and allow the Holy Spirit to impart the wisdom of this book deep in your heart.

Something that stands out to me as I read about wisdom is the fact that discipline goes hand in hand with it. In fact you cannot separate the two. In order to have wisdom you must have discipline and in order to have discipline you must have wisdom. If we will listen to the proverbs and take those teachings to heart we will become even wiser and more disciplined.

It is very apparent in today's society that discipline of the tongue has gone astray and people feel they have the right to use their tongue as a tool of destruction. It appears that every segment of our society is allowing the tongue to be the instrument to tear apart and divide us more than bringing us together. (Proverbs 12:18) "Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing." If there has ever been a time we need the words of the wise it is now. We need a healing in our nation and world.

The government will not bring it, the politicians certainly will not bring it, the military cannot produce it and in fact the only ones who will bring about the change needed are those of us who choose wisdom and discipline as our guides.

Remember what James wrote about wisdom and where to find it. (James 1:5) "If you need wisdom, ask our gracious God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." He also wrote in the third chapter of the book which bears His name these insightful words. "If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness." (James 3: 13-18)

To depart from wisdom is to be earthly, unspiritual and demonic. We want to try to figure out what is going on today with all the turmoil and bitter anger; well I think we just read it in the verses above. I choose not to focus on all the wrongs but rather on what can I do to better the environment around me.

As we try to change the environment around us, I want you notice all that accompanies we who choose wisdom above all else. There is purity, peace, love, gentleness, preferring others, mercy, good deeds, righteousness, honor and humility. That is the environment I want to dwell in and hopefully encourage others to follow me as I follow Christ. Remember if we want to change the circumstances around us then let's take a good look in the mirror and change the one looking back at us. **CHOOSE WISDOM!**



Thank You Pastor

We pray that in this
season that God would
be your constant companion.
We thank you for your endurance
as a spiritual leader!



Senior Adult Day 2021

**Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases
USA Missions Director Bishop Bill Woodruff
and the USA Missions Board have made the
decision to cancel the event for this year.**

*Today is a day
to be thankful
for life's blessings...*

Congratulations

**PASTORAL
APPOINTMENT**

**JEREMIAH BOSTIC
NEW LIFE CHURCH
MORGANTOWN**

EXHORTERS

**HEATHER CARISTO
MARK MCNEELY
STEPHANIE WILSON**

Ordained Minister

**Ryan Bradley
Brian Carter
Allen Farley
Teddy Frye II
Charles Henry
Cody Justice
Ricky D. Shrewsbury
Dusty Smith
Crystal Snuffer
Thomas Snuffer
Joey Thomas
Wesley Thomasson**



The Church of God State Office Staff is praying for each Pastor, Pastor's Wife, Minister and Lay member, and attender of our churches, that God will provide and keep you and your families safe during this time.

Mountaineer Ministries Prayer Requests:

(these requests come from the white envelope enclosed)

Our country; Our President and State Leaders; Military; Health Care Professionals; Health and Wellness; Finances; Jobs; Marriages; Family; The Church; A miracle healing for Joshua; Upcoming surgery; My Family; The teen's in our church; My Pastor; Those sick with Covid-19; Student's and teacher's

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed)

Recovering form Covid-19; His blessings; My home; My church family; Salvation; Healings; My pastor and wife; For answering prayers; For healing my daughter;

MARK YOUR CALENDAR OCTOBER 2, 2021 SENIOR ADULT DAY (CANCELED)

Do you have any questions about an upcoming event, need an application, or additional information.

You can contact us or receive information in the following ways.

**Phone: 304-252-0622 Fax: 304-252-0665 Web: www.wvcog.com
Facebook: West Virginia Church of God State Office (Cleveland, TN)
Email: youthsec@wvcog.com
Mail: PO Box 2374 Beckley, WV 25801**