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Pursuing Prudence with God

Wisdom or knowledge is highly desirable by many today. It is not merely a matter of information or knowledge of getting an MBA or doctorate or going to DeepSeek or ChatGPT, but of skillful and practical application of the truth to the ordinary facets of life. James tells us, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all."* (Jas 1:5) Admitting that we lack wisdom is a difficult but necessary first step on the road to prudent living.



Pursuit of Wisdom

If God (or a messenger from God) offers to grant you one wish, what would it be? Instead of asking for long life or wealth or power or the death of his foes, Solomon honoured the Lord by requesting a discerning heart of wisdom and he got it and was arguably one of the wisest kings that ever lived (1 King 3:10-12). Some thought they can get it from reading more books and/or getting more diplomas or degrees from universities, but the Bible says the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom (Prov 9:10). **The reverence and the awe of Almighty Jehovah will provide the necessary discretion and prudence for this life to keep us from sin and evil and that is true wisdom in action. We need wisdom to discern God's purposes and in dealing with the problems of the days.**

Wisdom has less to do with knowledge than it has to do with **the application of knowledge** in specific ways. **Wisdom is the skill in the art of living life with each component under the dominion and will of God.** When a person in the Old Testament demonstrated exceptional ability in a craft or art, that person was said to have what the Hebrew language calls *"hokma"*. Or some render it as "skill." In Exod 31:3-5, God filled a man named Bezaleel with the Holy Spirit and with *"skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts; to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship for the Tabernacle."* The word translated "skill" here is this word *hokma* or wisdom. Only God understands the way to wisdom because He alone is the source

of true wisdom. **The wisdom of our Creator God is evident in the nature in its beauty, order, richness, intricacy, variety and splendour of the created order and it is also evident in the person, powers and perfection of the Almighty God of creation.**

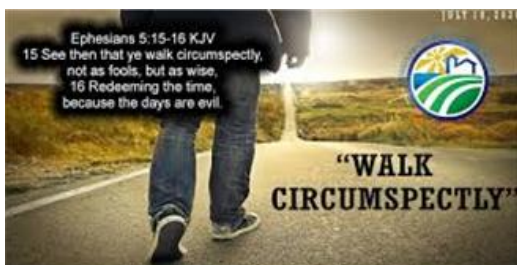
Bezaleel was given the ability to take raw materials and shape them into something beautiful and ornate by the will of God. In Proverbs, Solomon selected that Hebrew word, "*hokma*" to describe the quality needed by anyone who wanted to live a life of excellence.

The Practice of Wisdom

Believers are counselled and encouraged to walk not as fools but as Wise redeeming the time, for the days are evil. There are three characteristics of a Christian who walks in Wisdom and they are as follows:

- 1. Knowing what God's Precepts Are and Carefully Applying Them to our Lives.**
- 2. Employing our Time Prudently because of the Evil Age.**
- 3. Understanding and Obeying the Specific Will of God for our Lives.**

The Apostle Paul in Eph 5:15 says, "*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.*" Paul calls us to awake out of darkness into the light, ie become saved by trusting the Lord (verse 14). On the basis of receiving new life from Christ, Paul challenges us to walk circumspectly or conduct our life watching carefully where we go. The word here means accurately, carefully and exactly, ie to look around, with alertness as to what is going on or to investigate the surroundings. (cf Matt 2:8; Luke 1:3; Acts 18:25; 1 Thess 5:2) The word expresses the outcome of carefulness. It speaks of a narrow walk through life (cf Matt 7:13-14), where we take great thoughtful care in our direction, without getting detoured or tripping up. And this circumspect walk is one "*not of fools but as wise*". A circumspect walk is a walk in wisdom, which is to conduct one's life and make advancement in God's will, which is a responsible godly walk.



Coming to Christ in saving faith can lead to the possibility of walking in wisdom in the Christian life. Being saved, we become accountable to God and can choose to walk wisely (1Cor 1:30-31; Col 2:9-10; Tit 2:11-15 & 3:3-8; Jer 31:33-34; Heb 8:10-13) if we desire to. How do we define wisdom? **Basically, it is the Christian's innate fear of God and his practical understanding of the will of God leading to godly behaviour. It is a knowing and applying of the biblical principles of the righteous life.**

The Test of Walking in Wisdom

Those who walk in wisdom are also to "redeem the time because the days are evil." What does it mean to redeem the time? The English word translated "time" is not continuous time, as measured in hours, days, weeks, months or years but a measured,

allocated, fixed season or epoch. The Apostle Paul is noting the quality of the time, ie *"the days are evil."* (ie **last days are difficult and perilous before Christ returns**). Here is the reason why we should redeem the time. We should walk in wisdom because this is a distinctly dangerous age. (cf Gal. 1:4) So what does it mean to redeem the time? The term here means to buy back, ie to purchase the time for ourselves for good use.

Paul advises us not to waste our precious limited time. He counsels us to go out of our way to seek opportunity to serve God and advance His kingdom. One cannot do if one is idle and wasting one's time. **Be alert, be alive, and seek out opportunities for the Lord.** Look for them and take them eagerly every time you are presented with one. This, of course, is all-important, because the days are evil (ie the depravity of the system and the soon coming judgment) and the conditions in which we find ourselves in.

It is a summon to seize one's opportunities (ie the sharing of the gospel) for oneself in view of the particular evil of our contemporary world. Instead of fools who waste time in trivial pursuits and ignore opportunities during these evil days, believers are to buy up the time for themselves, by seizing opportunities in contrast to the evil days in which they live. The wasting of time and opportunities is a foolish thing. Jonathan Edwards, the renowned 18th century American theologian and revivalist just before his twentieth birthday wrote: **"Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can."** The Psalmist captures the value of redeeming the time in view of our temporal existence, compared to the eternity of God in this life.

Our days on earth are limited and it is but *"threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom (Ps 90:9-12).* Eph 5:17 says, *"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."*

Know God's principles and apply them obediently to our walk and make good use of our opportunities because of the evil conditions of our age, we are not to be fools but understand what the specific will of God is for our life. Therefore, we are to walk circumspectly and to redeem the time. When we are obedient to God and carefully make full use of opportunities, then will we understand, *"what the will of the Lord is."*

The Seeking of God's Will as Wisdom

The *"will of the Lord"* in this case refers to the specific will of God, in contrast to the general will of God, mentioned in verse 15. At the moment of salvation, we are given the spiritual wisdom in Christ. As the New Covenant promise puts it, God *"writes His law on our hearts"*. (Jer 31:33) And as we are obedient to that and seize the opportunities provided, we follow and will understand the direct leading of God for our personal lives. Obedience and sensitivity are required here to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:16) Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding (Prov 3:13). Our present culture is heavy on information and modern technology (latest is DeepSeek besides other AI tools like ChatGPT) but weak on true practical and spiritual wisdom. Godly Christians must know how to take the raw material of knowledge and refine it into true lasting wisdom, turning crude data into

practical spiritual wisdom. **Spiritual wisdom will last and persevere to the end; it lasts beyond all the currents of our depraved culture and social norms, beyond the ephemeral fashions of the day. Spiritual wisdom seeks that which will last and will not trade immediate gratification for an eternal reward.**

The Character of True Wisdom

There are all kinds of claims to wisdom by the world. According to James in Jas 3:13-17, there are two kinds of wisdom: false, earthly and devilish wisdom which leads to strife, confusion and every evil deed and true, heavenly, spiritual wisdom from God which has its attributes. They include purity, peace, mercy, gentleness, impartiality and non-hypocrisy or sincerity among others. Do we measure up to these characteristics today? Something to think and pray about.



Conclusion

Folly or foolishness should not be used to describe the redeemed life in a smartphone era. The elect are called to walk wisely and circumspectly, ie in wisdom where we know what God's principles are and submit to the spiritual rules that God has given to guide us. We are to make good use of our limited time by seizing our opportunities because of the evil times in which we live. In order to understand what the specific will of God is, for our personal life, we need to pray for wisdom and to know, obey and do the will of God and no modern AI tool can replace that. Therefore, let us be wise in our thoughts, words, deeds; pray and read His Word daily, follow and obey God while we live, play, study, work or serve the Lord or in any relationship.

Then in 2025 and beyond, we will be kept in the right direction with godly prudence and discretion in these last perilous days.

Jack Sin

***Pray for the
Inauguration
of the EPCM
on 9 Feb in
their new
building.***

	<p>စဝ်ဂေါလိပရက်(စ်)ဘီးတေးရီးယာန်အသင်းတော် (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ) The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Myanmar Headquarters, Falam, 03031, Tlanglo Street, Chin State Email: epcm.myanmar@gmail.com; Ph. 09421120834; 09973950880; Reg. No. 1551/1990</p>
<p>Dated: 4/2/2025</p>	
<p>RECEIPT</p>	
<p>We the Yangon EPCM have received SGD 2500 donated by Brother Robert Leu for purchasing generator with many thanks and this will help us to be able to buy a new generator of 60KVA (China made). We are so much thankful to Brother Robert Liu along with the Sovereign Hope BP Church for your love and concern to us.</p>	
<p>May our good Lord bless Brother Robert Liu and Sovereign for his own glory until He comes back.</p>	
<p>Yours sincerely in Christ</p>	
<p> Salai Tha Luai</p>	



More Greetings from Local & Overseas Brethren

On behalf of the Brunei Reformed Church, our profound thoughts and prayer are with you as you grieve the loss of your beloved father, Elder Khoo Peng Kiat. We thank God for the ministry of Elder and Mrs. Khoo Peng Kiat who came to minister to us in the Brunei Reformed Church, while yet in her infancy in the later part of 1999. It was a time of much refreshing to the early Church as we experienced the love and joy of both His humble servants. Twenty-five



years have passed by and their Christ-like demeanor has encouraged us to remain faithful to His ministry. We want to share these comforting words from Scripture that might offer solace as our own words fail us at this time.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord - 1 Corinthians 15:58 "God buries His servants and carries on His work".

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comforts be with you all as you mourn for the recent loss of your beloved father.

Rev. Peter Wong

Pastor, Brunei Reformed Church

Peace in Christ to Sovereign Hope BP Church Singapore!

The wonderful Benefactor has led you through seven years. "Seven" is always a perfect number in the Bible. I believe that He has led you most completely along the way!

Thank the Lord for giving you a good shepherd like Pastor Sin who is loyal to God's words. My congregation and I are often helped and shepherded by Pastor Sin's writings. I hope that in this era of belittling the Bible and despising words, all of you, faithful sons of God, will All the people can uphold the true way and continue to run towards heaven with one heart.

This is what the LORD says: "Stand by the roadside and look, searching for the ancient paths, where the perfect way is, and walk in it; and you yourselves will find rest. (Jeremiah 6:16)

I wish everyone a blessed Chinese New Year and a happy seventh anniversary!

Pastor T

Country X

Dear Pastor Jack, belated congratulations on your church 7th anniversary. Rejoicing with you as well.

Dn Chee Sing

Emmanuel BPC, Singapore



**Session & Our Guest Speaker:
Rev Philip Heng**



Session & New Member: Dr Samuel Gan

Congratulations on the occasion of 7th Anniversary of SHBPC. May the Lord bless your ministry.

Rev Dr Lim Yew Cheng
Pastor
Evangel BPC
Malaysia

Praise God for Sovereign Hope-BPC 7th Anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless SHBPC and lead you in His work. God.

Eld Eric Koh

Gospel light BPC, Singapore



**Praise Item by
Lily Khoo & Daniel Phang
"Until Then"**



**Praise Item by
Church Choir-
"May the Lord Find Us
Faithful"**



Thank you for coming to rejoice with us!



Memory Verse

Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! If you are here for the first time, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave. Those who share the church vision to acquire a place of worship in due time, may designate your offerings to the SHBPC Church Building Fund
2. Pastor brings us God's Word this morning on "***Appropriating Christ in our Lives (Eph 3:11-22)***", continuing the quarterly study on the "***Book of Ephesians: Serving Christ & Exalting the Sovereignty of God in the Church***".
3. Next Sunday, Pastor Jack will preach on "***The Function of the Church (Eph 4:1-16)***".
4. **Special Combined Sunday School Class** today after the worship service on "***How Satan Works: Persecution, Deception, Possession, Magic***" by Dr Samuel Gan
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on every Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. We have systematic studies on New Testament Foundations and the 10 Commandments. [Zoom ID:883 9662 4157 Passcode: 218178].
6. **2025 Annual Church Camp** will be held on **Jun 10-13** at **Forest City Marina Hotel**, Johor, Malaysia on the theme "***Wise or Foolish Living in a Smartphone Era***" and guest speaker **Rev Tan Eng Boo**. Register by 29 Mar 2025 with Dn Paul at hp:97314733.
7. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church. [Zoom ID:863 7527 5431 Passcode: 625551].
8. Pray for:
 - **Travel:** Dn Yue Kay [Hong Kong 11-17/2], Dn Paul [Hanoi 12-17/2], Dr Sam [Wenzhou 13/2], Deborah [Norway/Finland 19/2-1/3]
 - **Gospel Peace Station-** Hokkien outreach by Joseph & Rachel in Ang Mo Kio.
 - **Medical:** Devi [Gastro & BP conditions], John W's sister Angeline [Lung Cancer], Yvonne (Tiffany's mother) [Hernia & other medical conditions], Kim Meng [fractured left wrist], John W's daughter [dialysis treatment].
 - **Church Camp Committee:** Preparations for June 10-13 Camp at Forest City Marina Hotel.
9. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**Kindly indicate "**Church Building Fund**" if you would like to designate towards this cause.