Bible Study on October 22, 2017

Wisdom is knowledge given through experience and time.

Or, as one earthly man once said: "Yes, knowledge is out there-more than you or I know what to do with. But while knowledge might increase our prominence or reputation, wisdom is to be more treasured than gold. Humbly pray for wisdom and trust the God who is generous in answering."

In a single day, most of us can become well-informed in virtually any subject. The sleeping patterns of the aardvark; the inner-workings of a carburetor; the preparation of crème brûlée; the gravitational pull of Mars.

Thanks to the Internet, we can accumulate enough knowledge on any of these subjects to have a stimulating conversation at any party. We're flooded with information of all kinds, and we're continually exchanging knowledge. Every second of every day, six thousand tweets are tweeted, over forty-thousand Google queries are searched, and more than two million emails are sent.

We're swimming in an ocean of knowledge while dying of thirst for wisdom. Knowledge and wisdom are two very different things, and wisdom is by far the more valuable of the two.

Today's lesson is about Solomon. He asked God for and received wisdom. And we too must rely on God's wisdom so it becomes second nature to us so that our lives, not just our intellect, reflect who God is and who He has called us to be.

On his death bed, King David's wife, Bathsheba, appealed to him to name their son Solomon to be the next king. The prophet Nathan joined her in intervening on Solomon's behalf, and David granted their request. David gave final instructions to Solomon, urging him to live in God's ways, keeping His law.

Following David's death, the Lord appeared to Solomon. It is like a student talking with his mentor. Solomon said that I am just a youth, probably about 20 years old, with no experience. Solomon did not ask for money or wealth or power--he asked the Lord for wisdom, not stuff.

The Lord liked that. Look at the reply: "I will give you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has never been anyone like you before and never will be again. In addition, I will give you what you did not ask for: both riches and honor, so that no king will be your equal during your entire life. If you walk in my ways and keep my statutes and commands just as your father David did, I will give you a long life."

God gave Solomon wisdom, very great insight, and understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore. Emissaries of all peoples, sent by every king on earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to listen to Solomon's wisdom.

Or as it says elsewhere in the Bible says, Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. Solomon asked. The Lord opened the door.

And so should we--ask, seek and find. As I approach retirement age, my body may feel six and one-half decades old, but my mind, spirit and the enthusiasm to live life makes me feel more than a generation younger. I am trying to find that one door that God has out there for me where I can ask, seek and find. Pray for me in these endeavors.

**This week's Scripture is 1 Kings 3:3-14; 4:29-44.**

**If you need someone to talk to or discuss issues, please reply. Also please respond to this email if you do not wish to receive God's Word. Remember God loves you.**

**Adaptations by P. Boothe, Silent Hope Family Ministries.  From LifeWay literature sent by B. Lalley, HiWay Southern Baptist Church.**