

**Announcements:**

- New Here Lunch April 28<sup>th</sup> after 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Sign up online.
- Cinco de Mayo youth taco plate fundraiser.
- Serve Team Banquet May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- May 18<sup>th</sup>: conclusion of spring life groups ☹
- Sign-ups and more can be found at [trinitywax.info](http://trinitywax.info)

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**QUESTION:** What is one thing that you took away from Sunday's message?

**Seeking Wisdom Finding Meaning**

This week we will consider the idea of wisdom, and how we find meaning in our lives. In Proverbs chapter eight we find a long speech that is made by Lady Wisdom. This scripture is teaching us by presenting wisdom as a woman who addresses the reader. This speech begins at the very beginning of the chapter, but we will read from verse 22 today:

**"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;  
I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be.  
When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water;  
before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,  
before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth.  
I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,  
when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,  
when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.  
Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,  
rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. (Proverbs 8:22-31, NIV).**

In these verses, wisdom is described as the first of God's creation. This is the author's way of teaching us that we can think of wisdom almost like the blueprints of creation. The world was brought into order by God's wisdom. When we seek God's wisdom we are seeking an understanding of the fundamental nature of the world. Wisdom that the Bible teaches us about is wisdom that brings order, peace, and flourishing into God's creation. When we seek wisdom, we find meaning.

**Question:** Have you ever tried to assemble a piece of furniture or tool without instructions? Is this a little like trying to make sense of our world without the wisdom of God?

## The Wisdom of the Cross

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he writes frequently about wisdom. The Corinthians seemed to think themselves wise, but Paul writes that the wisdom that they were seeking was a wisdom that comes from this world rather than a wisdom that comes from God. Let's read 1 Corinthians 2:6-15:

**We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

**However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him—**

**these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human**

### **judgments (1 Cor 2:6-15, NIV).**

The wisdom of God was revealed to us most fully in the person of Jesus Christ. But the world couldn't see Jesus's crucifixion as wisdom. The hidden wisdom that Paul writes about here is revealed by the Spirit of God. This wisdom teaches us that what the world would consider foolishness is the most perfect expression of God's wisdom. The hidden wisdom was that Jesus's death was actually his victory. This is why Paul says that the rulers of this world would not have crucified Jesus if they understood this wisdom. They believed that they were executing a prisoner in shame, but in reality, this was the victory of the Lord of Glory. The wisdom of God understands that real glory was achieved through humility, service, and self-sacrifice. The wisdom of the Spirit teaches us the way of Jesus.

**QUESTION:** How does this wisdom (understanding the meaning of Jesus's death) help us to understand what is truly valuable in our lives and in our world?

### **Wisdom that Comes from Above**

James also wrote about discerning the proper kind of wisdom. He describes two types, a wisdom that is earthly, and a wisdom that comes from God. Let's read James 3:13-18:

**Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

**But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness (James 3:13-18, NIV).**

An earthly wisdom might lead us to pride or self-importance, but wisdom that comes from God begins in humility. If reverence for God is beginning of wisdom, then a proper understanding of ourselves is the next step. If we think too much of ourselves we are not showing wisdom, but folly. It doesn't matter how much we know, or how fully we think we understand, we are not wise if we cannot live at peace with one another.

**QUESTION:** Look at the attributes of wisdom from above in the passage we just read (pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere). What are some practical ways that we can develop this kind of wisdom in our lives?

### Prayer

Take the time to check on prayer requests from last week and pray for any new or continuing needs in the group. Give praise to God for answered prayer.