

**WHAT SHALL WORLDLY WISDOM PROFIT YOU?
MARK 8:34-37**

Introduction

Here in this passage we see that Christ is showing that **the most precious thing in one's life is their eternal soul!** Yet, people are putting forth a lot of effort toward things that are for worldly gain, yet they are of absolutely NO PROFIT for their soul!

Jesus asks some pointed questions there in **verse 36 and 37.**

The bottom line is this: There are many people who are building or at least trying to build supposed great lives in the eyes of this world, yet they are disregarding the most important thing...their eternal soul!

I just want to look at one aspect of this today...we may come back and look at other aspects at a later date. But I want to focus on just one area today.

WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT SOMEONE TO ATTAIN THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD, YET NEVER ATTAIN THE WISDOM OF GOD?

There is a lot of emphasis on education in our day and time! Education is a good thing! I highly recommend it!

But could I tell you that **all the education and worldly wisdom that can be obtained in this world cannot match the wisdom of finding God and fearing God in one's life!**

Proverbs 4:7—"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Proverbs 9:10—"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Proverbs 2:6—"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his, mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 8:11—"For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."

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Proverbs 16:16—"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!"

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT WORLDLY WISDOM? (1 Corinthians 1:17ff)

Paul wrote to Timothy in *2 Timothy 3:7* about those who were—"Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

A. Worldly Wisdom Leaves God Out Of The Equation!

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

Romans 1:18-32

When you leave God out of the equation, you get the downward spiral of sin that brings **darkness (vs 21)**, **dishonor (vs 24)**, all forms of **depravity (vs 26-32)**, and eventually **death and damnation!**

1. The Atheist says—"There is no God!"
(Psalms 14:1-4)

2. The Evolutionist says of the Universe—"It all just happened over time"

I saw this quote on the Institute For Creation Research Facebook page just this past week:

Stuff Evolutionists Say:

D.M.S. Watson - "Evolution (is) a theory universally accepted not because it can be proven by logically coherent evidence to be true, but because the only alternative, special creation, is clearly incredible."

To that, I say: Incredible? Yes, but also true!

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Genesis 1:1–“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

John 1:1-3–“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16-17–“For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

Hebrews 1:10–“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:”

Hebrews 11:3–“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

The Atheist says–“There is no God...”

The Evolutionist–“It all just happened over time!”

3. **The Humanist says–“The only hope for man is man.” (Humanism is the religion of our schools)**

Did you know that kind of thinking is what will bring the antichrist to power one day in the very near future!

The world is looking for a man...a charismatic leader who can solve all the world’s problems and bring the world together in peace!

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Jesus Christ, the God-man came and was rejected! Mostly because Jesus didn’t come in the way man’s mind thought He should come!

John 5:43–“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”

The Psalmist warned twice about this:

Psalm 146:3–“Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.”

Psalm 118:9–“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.”

The Lord Himself through the Prophet Jeremiah:
Jeremiah 17:5–“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.”

Worldly Wisdom Leaves God Out Of The Equation...

B. Worldly Wisdom Is Foolishness To God!

*1 Corinthians 1:20–“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 3:19-20–“**For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.** For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.”*

What good is it for someone to be smart enough to find a cure for cancer yet die without Christ in their life with the cancer of sin having stolen their eternal soul?

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I'm amazed at both the explosion of worldly wisdom in our time as well as the great spiritual vacuum it leaves! The educated in our day are too smart to believe in God!

1 Corinthians 1:21—“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.”

*Worldly Wisdom Leaves God Out Of The Equation...
Worldly Wisdom Is Foolishness To God...*

C. **Worldly Wisdom Will Be Destroyed!**

*1 Corinthians 1:19—“For it is written, **I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.**” (From Isaiah 29:14)*

*Jeremiah 8:9—“The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, **they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?**”*

So, we've seen what the Bible says about worldly wisdom...

II. **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT GODLY WISDOM?**

A. **Godly Wisdom And Power Are Found Only In Christ!**

*1 Corinthians 1:24—“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**”*

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Godly Wisdom And Power Are Found Only In Christ!

B. **Godly Wisdom Is Foolishness To Lost Men!**

1 Corinthians 1:18—“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness...”

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*Ephesians 2:8-9—“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 **Not of works, lest any man should boast.**”*

*Titus 3:5—“**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;**”*

Conclusion

WHAT SHALL IT PROFIT YOU IF YOU ATTAIN ALL THE WISDOM OF THIS WORLD, YET YOU NEVER ATTAIN THE WISDOM OF GOD?

The wisdom of this world will pass away, but the wisdom of God endures forever!

The wisdom of God is only found in the Gospel of Christ!

Without the Wisdom Of Christ There Is No Profit!

With Christ There Is Great Profit!

Power over death, hell, and the grave!