Search for Him, God is Better than Gold!

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Have you ever been embarrassed or ashamed about what is in your search browser history?

Don’t worry. I’m probably not getting as personal as you think I am going to get.

I had someone give me a great example this week.

They were talking to me about how much time they spent on Craigslist and offerup searching for that sweet deal on that perfect dirt bike. Something that I too am very guilty of.

You can find so many good deals! And you can spend huge amounts of time searching for just about anything your heart desires. Why? Because it can feel like finding a huge gold nugget! Sure you can’t guarantee that you are going to cash in on a once in a life-time bargain, but after finding a couple of “steals” on line it is hard to keep away. You kind feel like a gambler who has won just enough to get hooked.

So what if we applied that same kind of resolve in our efforts to get close to God? What if we believed and acted on the fact that God’s wisdom truly is better than any great deal we might find? Or any lottery jackpot we could ever win?

Before I read a few scriptures about wisdom, I want to share a general definition of the word.

I think the most fitting definition of wisdom for today’s application is from the online Merriam-Websters Dictionary:

“the soundness of an action or decision with regard to the application of experience, knowledge, and good judgment.”

In other words knowing what to do and acting correctly according to that knowledge, in the given situation.

Being wise is better than all the riches and all the good deals you will ever find in this world…

One of the writers of Proverbs said:

**Joyful is the person who finds wisdom,  
    the one who gains understanding.  
14For wisdom is more profitable than silver,  
    and her wages are better than gold.  
15Wisdom is more precious than rubies;  
    nothing you desire can compare with her.  
16She offers you long life in her right hand,  
    and riches and honor in her left.  
17She will guide you down delightful paths;  
    all her ways are satisfying.  
18Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her;  
    happy are those who hold her tightly.**

**19By wisdom the Lord founded the earth;  
    by understanding he created the heavens.  
20By his knowledge the deep fountains of the earth burst forth,  
    and the dew settles beneath the night sky.**

**Proverbs 3:13-20**

And Proverbs 4:4-8 says:

**My father taught me,  
“Take my words to heart.  
    Follow my commands, and you will live.  
5Get wisdom; develop good judgment.  
    Don’t forget my words or turn away from them.  
6Don’t turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you.  
    Love her, and she will guard you.  
7Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do!  
    And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.  
8If you prize wisdom, she will make you great.  
    Embrace her, and she will honor you.**

**Proverbs 4:4-8 NLT**

Proverbs 8 records of Wisdom:

**“I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment.  
    I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.  
13All who fear the Lord will hate evil.  
    Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance,  
    corruption and perverse speech.  
14Common sense and success belong to me.  
    Insight and strength are mine.  
15Because of me, kings reign,  
    and rulers make just decrees.  
16Rulers lead with my help,  
    and nobles make righteous judgments.**

**17“I love all who love me.  
    Those who search will surely find me.  
18I have riches and honor,  
    as well as enduring wealth and justice.  
19My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold,  
    my wages better than sterling silver!**

**Proverbs 8:12-19 NLT**

Is that the attitude that you have? How valuable is God’s wisdom to you? Are you seeking it?

If God’s wisdom is one of the most important things to mine for…I think one of the biggest questions is, “Where should we be mining for it?”

As Job, one of the oldest books of the Bible, says:

**“But do people know where to find wisdom?  
    Where can they find understanding?  
21It is hidden from the eyes of all humanity.  
    Even the sharp-eyed birds in the sky cannot discover it.  
22Destruction and Death say,  
    ‘We’ve heard only rumors of where wisdom can be found.’**

**23“God alone understands the way to wisdom;  
    he knows where it can be found,  
24for he looks throughout the whole earth  
    and sees everything under the heavens.  
25He decided how hard the winds should blow  
    and how much rain should fall.  
26He made the laws for the rain  
    and laid out a path for the lightning.  
27Then he saw wisdom and evaluated it.  
    He set it in place and examined it thoroughly.  
28And this is what he says to all humanity:  
‘The fear of the Lord is true wisdom;  
    to forsake evil is real understanding.’”**

**Job 28:20-28 NLT**

God has a corner on the market when it comes to wisdom. This is what Paul was trying to tell the church in Corinth when He wrote to them…

**6We 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. 7No, we declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. 8None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9However, 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—**

**10these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.**

**The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11For 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. 12What 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. 13This 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. 14The 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. 15The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16for,**

**“Who has known the mind of the Lord  
    so as to instruct him?”**

**But we have the mind of Christ.**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-16 NLT**

Hopefully, by this point in the sermon we have established at least two things to be true.

1. All true wisdom comes from God.
2. All truth is revealed by the Spirit of God.

Sometimes this can get funny though. Because there are those who would like to think that they can just wait around for God’s Spirit to download knowledge and wisdom on them. It does not work that way. Wisdom has to be searched for, there is actually some work involved in finding true knowledge and then applying it in wisdom.

So first of all, where do we find truth? Now remember Jesus was described as “truth.” So we can also rephrase this question to read, “Where can we find Jesus?”

My short answer is anywhere that we find evidence of God. But you know I’m not going to leave you with the short answer…

Some Christians would like you to believe that the Bible has all of the truth in it. I won’t try to sell you on that. Instead, I will say that the Bible is true, but it is not the only place that God reveals His truth and His wisdom. The Bible gives us examples of how God revealed Himself to people. One writer listed:

1. Dreams – Dan. 7:1
2. Visions – Ezek. 1:1
3. The actual voice of God – Lev. 1:1
4. Symbols/object lessons – Jer. 19:1-15
5. Dictation – Rev. 2:1-3:22
6. Eyewitness reports – 1 John 1:1-3; Rev. 1:2
7. Guidance of the Holy Spirit – 2 Pet. 1:21
8. Experience of men/testimony – Ps. 23; 51
9. Historical research – Luke 1:1-4
10. Jesus Christ – John 1:14; Heb. 1:2

I believe all of these fit into five main ways that God reveals Himself. God’s Holy Spirit reveals Himself…

Through Nature, through Jesus, through Scripture, through other believers, and through conscience.

**When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—  
    the moon and the stars you set in place—  
4what are mere mortals that you should think about them,  
    human beings that you should care for them?**

**Psalm 8:3-4 NLT**

And Psalm 19:1-4 says:

**The heavens proclaim the glory of God.  
    The skies display his craftsmanship.  
2Day after day they continue to speak;  
    night after night they make him known.  
3They speak without a sound or word;  
    their voice is never heard.  
4Yet their message has gone throughout the earth,  
    and their words to all the world.**

**Psalm 19:1-4 NLT**

Even people who have not put their faith in Jesus, can learn countless things about God’s knowledge and wisdom, just by studying nature.

As sir Francis Bacon once wrote:

“God has, in fact, written two books, not just on. Of course, we are all familiar with the first book he wrote, namely Scripture. But He has written a second book called creation.”

I actually have to be a bit nit-picky with Sir Francis Bacon, Creation was actually the first book.

There is countless wisdom we learn from God through creation. Things like…

Don’t build your house in a flood plain.

If you want wind to fly a kite, you will probably find it at the beach.

Don’t have a bunch of trees close to your house.

Don’t go swimming during a lightning storm.

If you drop an egg, it will break.

If you aren’t careful when you roll up your Christmas lights, they will become a huge tangled mess.

These are all things that are true, because of the way that God wisely established creation.

Next there is the Scriptures…

2 Timothy 3:16-17 says:

**15You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. 17God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

Please notice that this says “All Scripture is inspired and useful to teach…” It does not say that “Scripture is all that God uses to teach.”

Often times Scripture is what we need to keep us from going down wrong paths in the spiritual component of our life. Most of us do life somewhat experientially. You want your inner soul to be clean and without burden? Look to the scriptures. In which you can find Jesus, and though He probably won’t give you clear instructions on how to max out your IRA, if you trust Him you will find direction and rest for your soul.

**How can a young person stay pure?  
    By obeying your word.  
10I have tried hard to find you—  
    don’t let me wander from your commands.  
11I have hidden your word in my heart,  
    that I might not sin against you.  
12I praise you, O Lord;  
    teach me your decrees.  
13I have recited aloud  
    all the regulations you have given us.  
14I have rejoiced in your laws  
    as much as in riches.  
15I will study your commandments  
    and reflect on your ways.  
16I will delight in your decrees  
    and not forget your word.**

**Psalm 119:9-16**

We know that Jesus has delivered us from the penalty of the law, which is really good news since none of us can obey it all the time. But by studying the Bible and walking in His ways, we enjoy the uplifting of our spirits when we keep our hands and hearts relatively clean.

The next way that we can get to know God was actually there before creation, but revealed after creation and after the scriptures. That WAY is Jesus…Hebrews 1 says:

**1 Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. 2And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. 3The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.**

**Hebrews 1:1-3 NLT**

So we see that it was through Jesus that God created the world, but He spoke through prophets and through the scriptures, until He decided to send Jesus (His exact representation) to live among us.

Therefore, as we study Jesus’ life, biblically and historically, we can glean the knowledge and wisdom of God.

Which in turn brings me to the last main conduit through which God shares (or reveals) Himself. That is through us, as believers. Since God’s Spirit indwells us from the moment we believe He uses us to show Himself to the rest of the world. Yes, He is showing Himself through a really dirty lens, but He shows Himself, nonetheless. In 2 Corinthians 3 Paul once wrote to the Corinthians:

**2The only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. 3Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.**

**2 Corinthians 3:2-3**

As believers, God teaches us through our consciences and we ourselves become His preaching, so to speak. As Romans records:

**14Even Gentiles, who do not have God’s written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. 15They demonstrate that God’s law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. 16And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone’s secret life.”**

**Romans 2:14-16 NLT**

So let’s sum up…Where should you dig for the gold nuggets of wisdom and truth?

By studying the laws of nature.

By studying the life of Jesus.

By studying the Holy Scriptures.

By studying the lives of other believers (past and present).

By listening to and training your conscience according to God’s Spirit speaking into your heart.

Remember it is God’s Spirit who reveals truth and wisdom in all of these areas.

He does it when He wills…But He doesn’t do it unless you are willing. The scriptures say if you seek Him He will be found.

Search for evidence of God and His wisdom in creation, in getting to know Jesus, by studying the scriptures, by interacting with other believers, and by listening to your conscience and letting God train it.

I hope that as you seek God’s gold nuggets His Spirit will cause your hearts to burn with passion for His wisdom.

Because it is God…Not Gold that is our Greatest Reward.