

Divine Wisdom



Divine Wisdom

We admire wise people for the skill which they show in judging the best way of acting in the changing and often complex circumstances of life, and in putting their decision into operation.

The most important wisdom is that which concerns the purpose of life itself and the way in which we relate to the source of life, God Himself.

To be wise here we need to be graced by God in a way that is beyond the capacity of our nature.

James describes the ‘wisdom that comes down from above as:

‘peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy’(James 3:17).

God is wise

When Paul claims that God alone is truly wise (Romans 16:27), he is speaking for the whole of the Biblical tradition:

‘I said, “I will be wise,” but it was far from me.

That which is, is far off, and deep, very deep;
who can find it out?’ (Ecclesiastes 7:23-24).

‘The root of wisdom - to whom has it been revealed?
Her subtleties - who knows them?

There is but one who is wise, greatly to be feared,
seated upon his throne – the Lord’ (Sirach 1:6-8).

‘My thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts’(Isaiah 55:8-9).

God is wise

Divine Wisdom is God Himself present in creation and in history, gracing all things and ‘ordering all things in harmony’ (Wisdom 8:1).

The Book of Proverbs tells us that God ‘rejoices in the inhabited world and delights in the human race’ (Proverbs 8:31).

The prophet Zephaniah has God dancing to the music of the spheres and the harmony of nature: ‘renewing his people in his love, exulting with loud singing as on a day of festival’ (Zephaniah 3:17).

God gives us wisdom

Divine Wisdom ‘renews all things, passing into holy souls in every generation making them friends of God. God loves nothing so much as the man or woman who lives with wisdom’(Wisdom 7:27-28).

It is through God’s gift of himself to us, the gift of this Spirit of Wisdom, that we ‘learn what is pleasing to God’(Wisdom 9:10).

We are assured that if we truly love this divine wisdom and if we earnestly seek it, we will find it for we will find God (Wisdom 6:12).

Jesus is the Wisdom of God Incarnate

Jesus is the incarnation of divine Wisdom (1Cor. 1:30),
the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14).

He invites all who are thirsty to come to him and
drink (John 7:37).

He invites all who are walking in darkness to come
to him, the light of the world (John 8:12).

He invites all who are labour and are overburdened
to come to him and he will give rest to our souls
(Matthew 11:29-30).

‘O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counsellor?" ... For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen’(Romans 11:33-36).

- ‘from him’ - God is the origin and source of all wisdom
- ‘through him’ - God is the one who graces us with wisdom
- ‘to him’ - all wisdom is directed towards God
who is the goal of our existence.

Divine Wisdom

It is by keeping our eyes on Jesus and by opening our souls to receive his Spirit that we learn wisdom:

‘There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist’ (1 Corinthians 8:6).

In contemplating Jesus we see who we really are
and we learn how to respond
to the action of divine Wisdom in our lives.
By his Spirit we are transformed,
so that the life of Jesus becomes our life,
his thoughts become our thoughts,
his responses become our responses,
his prayer becomes our prayer.



You are the centre