



### **Wisdom Needed in 2023**

By Dr. Mark Taylor, Christian School and College/University Representative

Educators require wisdom for the daily decisions they make. These decisions might require insights to manage an angry parent or intuitiveness when choosing the right materials to encourage a struggling student.

The Scripture includes some helpful guidance regarding wisdom. Here are a few verses. The Psalmist cautions us: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding...” (Psalm 111:10, NIV).

The apostle Paul said: “For the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man’s strength” (I Corinthians 1:25, NIV).

“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 speak of God’s wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began” (I Corinthians 2:6-7, NIV).

### **Wisdom vs Foolishness**

Wisdom refers to good judgment and sound course of action. Foolishness refers to being without good sense; being ridiculous. Is the Scripture saying God is ever foolish? Certainly not! The Scripture just puts man’s wisdom into perspective. The wisdom of the wisest of all people is but foolishness to God. The world does not understand God’s wisdom.

Max Lucado wrote in *The Inspirational Study Bible* comments, “Human wisdom tells us to get as much as we can, believe only what we can see, enjoy pleasure, and avoid pain. God’s wisdom tells us to give all we can, believe what we cannot see, enjoy service, and expect persecution.”

### **A Failure on the Wisdom Test**

I humbly remember a time when I, as a principal, was hiring a new teacher. A candidate, who I thought met our needs perfectly, applied for the position. As I prayed and sought God’s wisdom regarding this, my wife cautioned me about hiring this individual. However, I told her that the candidate met the requirements perfectly. He had the credentials and good references. I feared I would look foolish to my peers if I did not hire him.

About two months after hiring this man, I had to dismiss him. As I look back at this incident, I realize that the Spirit also checked me about hiring this individual, but I ignored God’s wisdom!

As you look at a new year in 2023, I challenge you to seek God’s wisdom. Other educators may pressure and push you to put your faith in people or yourself. Be steadfast in seeking and following God’s wisdom. What you do may seem foolish to the world but not to God!

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