

Lessons from job

Week 3

Three truths about wisdom – Job 28

Job 28

“Wisdom is not wisdom when it is derived from books alone.” – Horace (*Roman Poet*)

Questions: What is wisdom from God like? How do we get it and apply it?

Job 28:12

But where can wisdom be found?

Where does understanding dwell?

²⁰ Where then does wisdom come from?

Where does understanding dwell?

²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing,
concealed even from the birds in the sky.

²² Destruction and Death say,

“Only a rumor of it has reached our ears.”

²³ God understands the way to it

and he alone knows where it dwells,

²⁴ for he views the ends of the earth

and sees everything under the heavens.

²⁵ When he established the force of the wind

and measured out the waters,

²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain

and a path for the thunderstorm,

²⁷ then he looked at wisdom and appraised it;

he confirmed it and tested it.

²⁸ And he said to the human race,

“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,

and to shun evil is understanding.”

3 truths about wisdom according to Job and his experience

1. Crisis intensifies our need for wisdom.

2. God is our only source of true wisdom.

Job 28:23-24

²³ God understands the way to it

and he alone knows where it dwells,

²⁴ for he views the ends of the earth

and sees everything under the heavens.

Job 1:5

⁵ When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would make arrangements for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 2:1-6

¹ My son, if you accept my words
and store up my commands within you,
² turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—
³ indeed, if you call out for insight
and cry aloud for understanding,
⁴ and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.
⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom;
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

3. Godly wisdom leads to godly action.

Job 28:28

²⁸ And he said to the human race,
“The fear of the Lord—that is wisdom,
and to shun evil is understanding.”

Job 42:1-6

¹ Then Job replied to the Lord:
² “I know that you can do all things;
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
³ You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to know.
⁴ “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;
I will question you,
and you shall answer me.’
⁵ My ears had heard of you

but now my eyes have seen you.
⁶Therefore I despise myself
and repent in dust and ashes.”

James 1:22-25

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.