

## Welcome & Announcements

**\*Song:** 117B “Praise the Lord God”

**\*Call** (Psa 5)

“In the abundance of his loving kindness, come into God’s house.

In the fear of the Lord, worship toward his Holy Temple.”

**\*Greeting**

Grace to you and peace from God the Father,

and from the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the fellowship and power of the Spirit.

**\*Song:** 245 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

**God’s Will for our Lives:** Ex 20

**Song:** 79B “Remember Not, O God”

**Congregational Prayer:**

**Offering:** Phoenix Christian School K-8

**Song of Prep:** 288:1,3,5 “We Come, O Christ, to You”

# Pre-Reading

1. Turn to Prov 13
2. Looking back on year ; ahead to new one on Friday
  - a. Fair to say, 2020 taught us many things;
  - b. Include myself — Personally, felt need for greater wisdom in all areas:
    - i. Balancing preservation of human life w/ livability
    - ii. Personal holiness — when so often alone
    - iii. Friendships/marriage/work
    - iv. Church life
    - v. Civil/political
3. Share my resolution and exhort you to join me —
  - a. Based on [Prov 13:20](#) —

# Reading

cf. [Prov 13:20](#), "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise"

# Introduction

1. Thesis: by God's grace gain wisdom which belongs to you in Christ
2. Basically, what wisdom is:
  - a. Skill of living well ; i.e., accords with one's purpose/aims.
    - i. NOTE: more than possessing correct information about choices;
      1. **Illust.** — " use a doly" — man injured for stubbornly refusing what he knows is best
    - ii. The wise possess moral/habitual fortitude to actually will the good.
3. You know the adage — "bad company corrupts good character"
  - a. Likewise, **v.20**, presents general rule — “Those who walk with the wise become wise”

## Headings (3)

Trans: There are varieties of wisdom that you can walk by

- a. Essentially innocent — belong to both believers/unbelievers
  - i. e.g., medical wisdom; art of angling; parenting
- b. Others are necessary but fraught with temptation:
  - i. e.g., Wisdom to manipulate social circumstances / maneuver politically
    1. **Illust.** — Ahithophel — **2 Sam 16:23**, “in those days, the advice of Ahithophel was as if one consulted with the Word of God.”
- c. Some are downright devilish —
  - i. cf. Colossians — beware graceless philosophies/legalistic religions
    1. **Illust.** — Buddhist monks — sit in tomb and drink nothing but sap-tea
- d. In all, the principal of Prov 13:20 holds true — “Those who walk with the wise become wise”
  - i. For better/worse.

# 1. Who are the wise whom Spirit exhorts you walk with?

## 1. The wise are those who reverence God sincerely

- i. cf. [Prov 9:10](#), “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.”

## 2. Who put no confidence in the flesh

### a. But place their hope of salvation in the Gospel

- i. cf. [2Tim. 3:15](#), “from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

## 3. Those who exercise faith by walking in righteousness

- a. cf. [James 3:13](#), “Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”

- i. NOTE: by this standard, Jesus alone possesses perfect wisdom

- 1. cf. [Col 2:3](#), [in Christ are] "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

- b. But in an approximate sense —

- 1. All who walk with him in faith become wise;

- 2. And all who don't remain fools:

- 1. Cf. **1Cor. 1:20**, “Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Sum: "wise" of [Prov 13](#) are those who walk with God in humility/holiness

Trans: **v.20**, "Those who walk with the wise become wise"

- a. Think of some of the wisest — Elisha / Paul / Jesus

- b. Yet each had company who remained fools — Gehazi ; Demas ; Judas

- i. Thus, "to walk with the wise" — means more than spending time in presence

- c. Danger is here, too — are there any among us who hardly grow in real wisdom?

- i. cf. [2 Tim 3:7](#), “Always learning but never coming to the knowledge [experience] of the truth”

## 2. How does one "walk with the wise"?

1. **Illust.** — someone invites you walk "together" — but separately
    - a. Entails frequent/protracted time spent together
      - i. **Illust.** — Jesus didn't just "preach and split"
        1. Those whom he wished to impart most wisdom to, he spent most time with.
      - ii. Because he knew growth in wisdom requires
        1. Observ./encouragement/accountability
  2. But "walking with the wise" means more than osmosis
    - a. i.e., to seek to tread same path — spiritual/ethical
      - i. Carefully observe their way of life;
      - iii. Seek to imitate their wisdom
  3. Basically, "walking with" means "keeping in step"
    - a. cf. [Phil 3:17](#), "Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things."
  4. **Illust.** — James Alexander (oldest son of Archibald)
    - a. *My Brother's Keeper* — make it your study, after Word, to observe human nature/outcomes
      - i. To chart one's course on others' lives ;
      - ii. Both in person and by way of writing, etc.
- Sum: you "walk with wise" by making Christ & mature servants
- a. The subjects of most intimate/frequent encouragement/instruction

# 3. Reflect on the principle itself

v.20, "Those who walk with the wise become wise"

1. Practically — how “walking with the wise” imparts wisdom
  - a. By gaining understanding;
  - b. Being stimulated by outcomes;
  - c. Receiving encouragement/accountability in God’s way
  - d. Mystery of grace — Spirit secretly imparts wisdom to those who seek it in faith.
    - i. cf. [James 1:5](#), “Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it *will* be given to him.”

# Conclusion: Practical Reflections for Resolution

1. [ASK] Reflect on the past year — with whom have you walked?
  - a. Spent most time; come under the influence of?
  - b. Both in person / virtually?
2. Why do we not walk with the wise more than we do?
  - a. Easy to blame circumstances — i.e., job with crass/worldly people
  - b. Reality — we value wisdom poorly
    - i. **Illust.** — [Prov 8](#) — wisdom cries in the streets
3. Resolve to meditate often on the great gain of true wisdom
  - a. Kept from ruin — cf. **v.20**, "the companion of fools will suffer harm"
  - c. Capable of doing others' good — especially for souls — cf. **Dan 13:3**, "Then the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."
  - d. Communion with Christ — NOTE: wide difference between union/communion
    - i. Christ saves fools; but he does not walk with them.
4. Seeing great gain of wisdom, resolve this year to “walk with wise”
  - a. Above all with Christ — Word, preaching, constant prayer
  - b. With his living community — prefer company of most mature (**Illust.** Line out the door)
  - c. Studying wisdom preserved in writing
    - i. Cornelius Vtringa's *The Spiritual Life*; *Memoir of Mary Winslow, Life in Jesus*
5. Finally, take heart at what the principle means for your future!
  - a. **v.20**, "Those who walk with the wise become wise"
    - i. NOTE: ironically — you must not expect to feel you have gained much of it!
      1. But God is faithful and will do it.

# Closing of Service

**Song:** 446 “Be Thou My Vision”

## Blessing:

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,  
that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,  
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,  
and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power  
toward us who believe. Amen.

**Song:** 567 “Doxology”