I. Knowing what to do and doing it is the difference between knowledge and wisdom.

A. Wisdom involves choice.

B. “Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it.” J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

C. “Wisdom is choosing the best means to the best ends.” J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

II. Proverbs 20 – 24 is filled with exhortations and warnings.

A. Let’s consider the exhortation of Proverbs 21:2, 30 and 31 and the implied warnings.

B. Let’s compare Isaiah 55:8ff with this simple proverb.

1. Every disciple of Jesus needs his/her own “Ways and Means Committee.”

2. Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way that seems right unto a man; but the end …”

3. Proverbs 12:15, “… but the wise man seeks counsel.”

III. As the final exhortations continue in Proverbs 22:17–24, it is necessary to consider Free Will.

A. Prov 22:17-24:22 is comprised of thirty “Sayings of the Wise:” Exhortations/Warnings

B. The form of the Ten Commandments is used to convey these messages.

1. 21 “Do Not’s” are used and a dozen “Do’s” are given.

2. Warnings and promises accompany all.

IV. Who is expected to make these moral choices and who is not expected to make them?

A. The New Testament provides the best answers.

1. Once more, 1 Corinthians 1 – 3 sheds the light we need.

a. Doing what comes naturally, letting your heart be your guide, is spiritually and morally dangerous.

2. Only people who have an indwelling of the Holy Spirit have Free Will.

3. Spiritually blind people do not know/have Free Will, biblically speaking.

a. Matthew 15:14

b. 2 Corinthians 3:14; 4:4; and Ephesians 4:18

B. The exercise of free will is portrayed in Romans 7 and 8.

1. Becoming born-again; getting saved; getting spirit-filled eliminates gravity.

a. Isaac Newton discovered physical gravity.

b. The Holy Spirit reveals spiritual gravity. His “Lamp” is the “Law’s.”

V. The Wise/Mature understand the Purpose of Prayer.

A. The purpose of prayer can be capsulized as Four A’s:

(1) Acknowledgement; (2) Ascription; (3) Alignment; and (4) Assignment

B. The Wise/Mature understand the Purpose of Perseverance.

1. Philippians 1:6

2. 2 Timothy 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Hebrews 10:23

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| Great is Thy faithfulness, O God My Father.  There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not;  As Thou hast been Thou forever will be. | Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth;  Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide.  Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow.  Blessings all mine and then thousand beside. |