

## THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE WORLD

1 Corinthians 3:19-20 ... "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their own craftiness;' and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'"

In today's verses, Paul is quoting from the book of Job chapter 5 where we learn that Job's friends had nothing but bad advice for him during his trials and testing. Do you have friends who often give you advice? Is it sometimes bad advice?

As believers, we learn over time that God is always right. After struggling with a problem or circumstance for a while, we usually give up and tell God, "I do not know what I am doing, Lord. I cannot fix this problem. Please help me and give me the patience to wait for your solution." Even when we do not understand his plan or his strategy, there comes a point when we finally see it and say to ourselves, "Oh, that is what God was trying to show me," or "Now I understand his plan."

Our friends, however, may not be that patient or they may want to display their own wisdom by offering us advice; they want to show-off and tell us what we should do, even when they cannot solve their own problems. And, when we listen to them instead of waiting for God, we dig ourselves a little deeper into despair and discouragement.

God hears the bad advice of your friends and considers it foolishness because, more often than not, their advice is not what God wants for you. As our passage says, He "knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." When the verse says, "the wise," it is referring to people who believe they are wise, but instead they are foolish.

Now, let me be clear about one thing. There may be times when God sends a believer to you with Godly wisdom; a person God has entrusted with truth for you. If this happens, you will instantly know that the message is from God because the Holy Spirit will confirm it to your soul. You will know that you are hearing a message from God, delivered by a Godly person. But if you do not sense the Holy Spirit confirming someone's "wisdom," be careful. There are people, even within the body of Christ, who claim to know what is best for you, or claim to know God's will for you. Listen to the Holy Spirit to filter out the misguided advice that friends, relatives, and fellow believers might offer you.

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