

Lion and Lamb Apologetics

What is True Wisdom?

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And he said to man, “Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.”

~ Job 28:28 (ESV)

So far,¹ Job addressed the value of wisdom, the hiddenness of wisdom, and the source of wisdom, which is God Himself. However, it is not until he came to the conclusion of his thoughts concerning wisdom that he divulged what true wisdom actually is. Wisdom is **the fear of the Lord**. To *fear* the Lord means having such awe of Him that it affects how one lives. It precipitates a desire to know God and leads to a reverence for God. It involves a trusting submission to God that seeks to know His Word and obey it, accepting God’s will and worshipping Him alone. The idea of submitting to God is highlighted by the word *Lord*. In Hebrew, it is the word, *Adonai*,² meaning “lord” or “master.” While today we may find it difficult to comprehend the idea of having a master, in ancient times people understood that submitting to a master meant acknowledging the master had the right to do whatever he wanted, while the servant existed for the purpose of submissively serving the will of the master in all things.

Practically speaking, wisdom is living all of life unto God, acknowledging Him in everything. As a result, wisdom is knowing the right thing, doing the right thing, doing it in the right way, at the right time, and to the right extent. Furthermore, the fear of the Lord—wisdom—not only involves knowing what is right but also having an understanding of what is wrong. The person who has wisdom and understanding clings to what is good and turns away from what is evil. This includes avoiding sin but also repenting of sin when we have fallen into it.³

¹ Cf. Job 28:12-28.

² אֲדֹנָי

³ Betts, T.J. (2021) *Explore the Bible: Adult Personal Study Guide*. Nashville: LifeWay Christian Resources, pp. 43-44.