

¹ Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? ² She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. ³ She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: ⁴ “To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. ...” ²² The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. ²³ I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. ²⁴ When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; ²⁶ while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primeval dust of the world. ²⁷ When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸ when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, ²⁹ when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰ then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, ³¹ rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.

Text: Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31 6/14/26 Ro. 11:33-36 Mark 6:1-6 Psalm 139 Psalmody (p. 37, WS)
Hymns: 26, 243, 742, 244

OH, THE WISDOM OF GOD!

Dear fellow believers in Christ, in whom we have true wisdom,

Why does God allow all the evil and unfairness and suffering in the world? Why didn't God make Satan and the other angels who fell so they couldn't sin? Why didn't God make Adam and Eve so they couldn't sin? Why does God allow all the earthquakes and famines and floods that kill so many people? How could God have made hell where so many people go after they die? There are so many things about the universe, and about life and about God and His ways that seem hard for us to make sense of.

The only way we can better understand God and what He does is by turning to His Word. 1 John 4:8 says, “*God is love.*” God knew that Adam and Eve were going to sin before He created them. God knows if we're going to sin before we sin, but God doesn't make us sin. In love God created Adam and Eve and gave them a chance to live and show their love for Him by living the way He told them. When they disobeyed God and became sinful, God promised to send His Son to save them, and the whole world, from sin. God knew before He created all things that Adam and Eve's sin would corrupt every part of His creation. Still, in love God created everything, and in love He filled His creation with good things to delight us. When some of the things God does, and allows to happen, don't make sense to us, we can always be confident that God is love. Our sinful human mind cannot figure out everything about God. But we don't have to worry because we know that everything God does He does in love.

The psalmist urges us, “*Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!*” (136:1). James says in his first chapter, “*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning*” (v. 17). It helps you and me to better understand God and what He does when we keep in mind that God is only good, and everything God does is only good.

Another thing that greatly helps us to understand God and His ways is knowing that He is a God of wisdom. The Bible says, *“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”* (Ro. 11:33). When things about God and His will don’t make sense to us, we can leave them all in His hands, knowing that God in His infinite wisdom knows what’s best.

We’re told, *“[Wisdom cries aloud:] ‘The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.’”* We look at all the twisted, ruined, unfair, sad, stupid, evil, fickle things there are in life, and our reason can’t make sense of it. When those who don’t know God think about all these things, how depressing and empty and hopeless it all must seem to them! By the grace of God, you and I know Jesus Christ as our Savior, the living God as our Heavenly Father, and the Holy Spirit as our divine Counselor and source of spiritual life. We know that in His perfect wisdom God first planned and then created all things. What a blessing and comfort this is to us!

Wisdom ‘speaks’ in our text: *“Before the mountains were settled ... I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman.”* What an awesome God we have! The universe didn’t create itself out of nothing. That’s foolishness! *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ... And God said, ‘Let there be... and it was so.’ ... Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished”* (from Gen. 1 & 2, my emphasis). That’s wisdom!

Look at a globe and see the vast seas that cover so much of the surface of the earth. In His wisdom, our almighty God created them all. He set their boundaries so they can reach so far, and no farther. God made the springs and the lakes and rivers and clouds to give us water and sustain all life on earth. We read in the fortieth chapter of Isaiah, *“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? ... It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in... ‘To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?’ says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.”*

Wisdom again speaks in our text, *“I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.”* In our Preservice Psalm we read, *“You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works”* (139:13-14). Genesis chapter one tells us that God made all the plants and animals and birds and insects and fish *“after their kind”* (vv. 11-12, 21, 24-25). Wisdom declares in our text, *“my delight was with the sons of men.”* Only with us human beings did God say, *“Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”* (Gen. 1:26). Mankind did not come from the animals, to live however each of us wishes, and be aborted when we’re not

wanted, and take God's place and put ourselves out of our misery. God originally created mankind to perfectly know Him and love Him and obey His Word and will. When mankind fell into sin, God immediately promised to send His Son to defeat Satan and sin and death and hell. Jesus came to earth and lived a perfect life and died on the cross and rose again for our salvation. Ephesians 4:24 says, "*Put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.*" When God brings us to faith in Jesus, He restores us in His image. When He takes us to heaven some day, He will perfectly and completely restore us in His image for eternity.

Why didn't God make Satan and the other angels who fell so they couldn't sin? Why didn't God make Adam and Eve so they couldn't sin? It's not our place to tell God how He should do things. God made all the angels and Adam and Eve perfect. Satan and the other angels who fell and Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. It was their fault, not God's. Why does God allow all the earthquakes and famines and floods that kill so many people? Why does God allow all the evil and unfairness and suffering in the world? God originally made the whole universe, and mankind perfect. When man disobeyed God and became sinful, he brought sin into all of God's creation. Sin is the cause of all of the bad things that happen. Either someone sins and causes the trouble, or trouble comes simply because nothing is perfect and bad things happen. How could God have made hell where so many people go after they die? Matthew 24:41 tells us that it was because of Satan and the angels who fell that God made hell. Satan and the other fallen angels are doomed to hell, where everyone who rejects Jesus Christ as their Savior will also go. It's not God's fault when someone goes to hell. It's that person's own fault. (See Jms. 1:13-14). Peter assures us, "*The Lord is...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*" (2 Pet. 3:9)

Our human wisdom tells us that if we want to go to heaven, we have to be good enough to deserve it. But God's wisdom tells us that because of our sins, the only thing we deserve is to go to hell (Ro. 6:23a). God's wisdom tells us to simply believe in Jesus, and our sins are all forgiven and we're saved! Our human wisdom wonders, "It seems too wonderful to be true!" Scripture tells us, "*Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon*" (Is. 55:6-7). God's wisdom says, "It really is true!" "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts*" – Isaiah 55:8-9.

OH, THE WISDOM OF GOD! Amen.