

## SOMEBODY CALLED ME SMART

After filling my car with gas recently, I went inside the station to pay my bill and get a receipt. When I walked in a customer was standing in line and said, "Now, here is another smart person!" Being the smart person I supposedly am, I looked behind me to see if he was referring to somebody else. Seeing nobody behind me, and now realizing he was referring to me, I asked him why he thought this? He replied, "Because you used your coat sleeve to open the door so not to get germs!" Then he showed me his keychain that had a gadget on it similar to an Allen key. He informed me that he uses this gadget to open doors and to key in his pin code on machines when paying by debit in order to avoid getting germs.

In this case, I didn't need to let this person know that I have a Masters in Divinity, or an Honours Degree in Business Administration and was a Certified Professional Accountant to be considered smart. Using my coat sleeve to open the door in order to avoid touching unclean surfaces was all I needed to do in order to be considered smart.

It is interesting that the Bible doesn't refer to people as being smart, but rather as being wise. True wisdom in the Bible is described this way in **Proverbs 1:7**:

***Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.***

As we see here in Proverbs, wisdom is more than just knowing a lot of things or having various degrees or certificates. According to this passage, and so many others in the Bible, the foundation for true wisdom is having a healthy fear and respect for the Lord. Scripture reminds us that true wisdom flows from knowing God, living in awe of His power, and obeying His Word and truths. Passages like this one from Proverbs shows us that faith, respect and awe of God are the smartest and wisest ways for us to live our lives.

If you get a chance to read through Proverbs, you will find the following blessings that flow from wisely making respect and obedience to God our guiding principle in life:

- *It helps us to be kinder,*
- *It allows us to see things from God's perspective,*
- *It helps us to put God first in our lives,*

- *It allows us to know right from wrong and turn away from what might be harmful for us,*
- *It helps us to know God better,*
- *It allows us to be taught by God and grow in wisdom and common sense.*

These are just some of the blessings that flow from deciding to seek wisdom by trusting and obeying God. I love how the writer of Ecclesiastes refers to the blessings of choosing the wise path of trusting God:

**How wonderful to be wise, to analyze and interpret things.  
Wisdom lights up a person's face, softening its harshness.  
(Ecclesiastes 8:1)**

Isn't it amazing to see how trusting God and following His wisdom will light up our faces and help soften the blows the harsh realities of life hit us with?

We have been hit with a harsh reality these past fourteen months with Covid-19. One of the messages that we have kept hearing from our elected officials through this is that they are relying on the advice of the smartest minds in the medical and science fields to guide them. We have seen a lot of inconsistencies and mistakes made by these bright and wise people in these fields. I am not blaming them here but pointing out a fact. Even the brightest and smartest doctors or scientists make mistakes. They have guided us up until this point and will continue to as we emerge closer and closer to a post-pandemic period. As bright as these people are, they are not all-seeing, all-knowing or perfect. The best they can do is offer the best advice they can at each and every stage going forward. Their wisdom is limited, but God's is NOT.

Hopefully, one thing we have learned during these past fourteen months is how wise it is to follow God and put our trust in HIM. As we journey closer to a post pandemic world, let us not let go of the wisdom and guiding principle to put our fear and trust in our Lord. No matter the hardships we may experience now or post-pandemic, our face will still be lit up and our hearts will be at peace knowing we have wisely put our trust in God.

Now that the weather is getting nicer and I don't have to wear a coat, I will have to come up with a smarter way to open doors without getting germs. I just may have to find some smart gadget for my key chain.

Keep Safe & God Bless,

**Pastor Dean**