

THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Proverbs 9:10).

A famous man once suggested that if you would want to appear wise, then you should keep silent. It is only after you open your mouth that you show your lack of knowledge. Our Lord gave this same advice to those who wanted to give Him advice: **“Be still and know that I am God.”** This true wisdom which we receive from God is shown then by having respect for God’s Word.

This respect, or fear as it is stated by Solomon in Proverbs, is due God by reason of the fact that He is God, the One who created the world and preserves it to this day, the One who loves the world and sent His one and only Son to save it from sin. In several places in the Bible God begins a statement by saying: **“I am the Lord your God!”** We, too, should be still and know that He is God.

Although this wisdom may be shown through respect, it is maintained through knowledge. There are many things which we have to maintain in this world. Perhaps you have a pet; pets have needs that have to be met. You don’t just get a pet and give it a can of food and expect that one time gesture to last for a long time. Just like a car will not last very long if you expect one trip to a service station to last forever. But as much as we respect our pets and our cars, perhaps the best example would be our own bodies. We might neglect our pets or cars, but when our bodies tell us that it is time to eat, we listen. Hopefully, we respond with nutritious, well-balanced meals.

Our souls also need regular nourishment in God’s Word, and snacks are appreciated. We mean more than just a feast a couple of times a year, or even weekly dinners; daily we need to remind ourselves of God’s law and gospel. We also need to pass this on to our children. We can do so by word and example.

We have been made wise unto salvation through God-given faith in Christ Jesus. May we continue to listen to God in His Word by a regular diet of the Bible, and share it with others, especially those under our care.

In our Savior’s service,

Pastor James A. Castillo