

Pentecost 12 – August 16, 2015

Text: Proverbs 9:1-10

Theme: Wisdom Taught at This Preschool

**In the book of Proverbs, we are all encouraged to leave our simple ways and walk in the way of insight. That sounds like a good idea. But what is really simple and what is complex? It is easy to become confused. So the best test is this. Is this something God has said or something from the world? Where God has not said it, be careful because God has given us everything we need to know. Whether with regard to salvation or living life, his law and his Gospel answer every question we need answered. That makes some of us uncomfortable. That just seems too simple. So human beings dream up all kinds of additions, rules and precepts, to complicate what seems like the simplicity of God. But the simplicity of God is far wiser and far more complex than all the complexity of the world. In fact, only a truly wise person can happily leave the ways of the world and follow God.**

**Pay attention to the fact that I said, he answers every question we *NEED* answered. God does not answer every question we may *WANT* answered. The Bible does not tell me how to perform hip replacement surgery or how to manage my retirement funds and therein is the difference between wants and needs. Whatever we really need, we are told in God's Law and Gospel. Everything else is a want. That does not make God's way simple. In fact, God's way is so complex that we could never follow it, were it not for the power of the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to simply believe.**

**So much of life is a struggle to understand and embrace the ways of God. That is true wisdom, to be able to leave the ideas of the world behind and walk**

**in the ways of God. The psalmist says in the Introit that the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord. That is to say, if you really want to be wise, you first give up confidence in your own knowledge and abilities and cast yourself into the arms of God. Fear of the Lord is complete confidence in his desire and ability to care for you.**

**Don't confuse Wisdom and Intelligence. Sometimes people believe that fear of God is something one gets when he has studied enough and knows enough about God and while I am certainly in favor of Bible study and Christian education, one has to understand that Wisdom comes from the power of the Holy Spirit given through the Word and the Sacraments, not mastery of certain facts. Intelligence is the capacity ones has to master the information one can learn from world around him. Some of us have great capacity for Intelligence (that is what I.Q is).Some have a small capacity for Intelligence. Essentially it is like having a big garage or a linen closet. The person with the big garage can store more stuff. But if you know a person with a really high IQ, that is a really big mental garage, that high IQ does not necessarily make him wise. In fact, some of the people I know with tiny mental linen closets are by far wiser than those with huge mental garages.**

**At my house, I have two garages and both of them are packed to the rafters but almost none of that stuff is really necessary. In fact, probably a good 25% is just junk that ought to be thrown away. The same is true for people with really high IQ's. Having a huge capacity for storage does not mean that the stuff stored is really needed. Neither is wisdom based on the amount of material known but rather the power of the Word of God at work within his**

**child. Sometimes, when there is too much stuff in the way, people can become more easily confused between the wisdom of God and the lies of this world.**

**Some of you have had the privilege of leading Bible Study or helping with transportation for some of our Voice of Care friends. They are people who by worldly standards are mentally challenged. That is to say, the world does not see them as wise because they find it more difficult to master large quantities of information. But in my experience with them, they are very wisepeople. They care little for the opinions of the world; what makes you successful, what makes you beautiful, what makes you more important than someone else, and they have far more concern about fearing the Lord, that is doing what the Lord calls them to do, loving people, caring for people and following Jesus regardless of what the world might say. Any of you who have led Bible studies with the Voice of Care folks know how loved and appreciated they make you feel. People who have been given the gift of wisdom are able to do that without even trying.**

**These are the most important matters for our lives. Another place I see a great deal of wisdom is in our preschool children. Miss Amanda, is the director of our preschool. If you don't know her, you should get to know her, because what she does in a given day is by far more important than what many people do in a year. This is true for all of you who nurture young children in the Christian faith, some of you are teachers and some of you are parents or family, some serve in other ways. But however you serve these little children, you take young souls and reaffirm over and over again that God loves them more than anything in the world and that God's love for us informs our love for**

**one another. That is the beginning of wisdom. Sadly it takes some people their whole lives to gain that foundational piece of wisdom that the 2,3, and 4 year olds at Trinity Preschool already know. That is why we have a preschool. That is why we have a Sunday School. This is where we teach the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of true Wisdom.**

**Our new Bishop, Bishop Hardy, has set the theme for the English District for the next 3 years. "Love one another as I have loved you." He believes that love is the key to action. When we are loving others, we are not concerned with what is best for us but how we can serve another and in doing that God blesses us richly. There are many ways to love others. We love others in this place through our youth ministry, music ministry, our senior ministry, Voice of Care, Trinity Music Center, Dorcas, LWML, Trinity Preschool and many other ways. There are still so many people all around us in our community who do not know the love of God.**

**They see God as a lawgiver, a tyrant, a myth, a crutch, but however they see God, they have not learned the simple truth that Miss Amanda teaches our little children every day during the school year, God loves you, just as you are, without any strings and his only wish is to fill you with his love and when that happens, then you are wise. In the coming years, our focus in the English District will be to love others. I intend for Trinity to lead this charge into the darkness around us.**