**“Insight”**

#

Psalm 34:11-22

Proverbs 9:1-10

Ephesians 5:6-21

John 6:51-69

 12th Sunday after Pentecost

According to the book of Proverbs, the way of life (or wisdom itself) is “walking in the way of **insight**. The **knowledge of the Holy One** is that **insight**.”

Grace to you and peace from God, our Father, and from our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bridge

So as to help those reading him **comprehend** (or **understand / grasp**) what he describes as the **source that controls the choices and activities of a person**, C.S. Lewis wrote in all of his books from the **framework** of just one of his philosophical essays called “Men Without Chests”. Starting his book, “The **Abolition of Man**”, with **that essay**, the author speaks against a critical societal **tragedy** that (he says) “creates men that, overall, **lack** **a** **chest-swelling virility**”, **warning that way** about the **current lack of upright, manly men**. Obviously, the same thing is what Lewis is saying about society’s dis-encouragement to make **appropriate** **women**, too. It’s **disastrous (he thinks)** … the very **reason** for his life’s writing work (to **warn humanity against such a situation**).

The outgrowth of “Wisdom” **IS** that Good **uprightness and manliness of men** and **appropriateness of women**. Before **the word “wisdom”** had been softened-down to, just, note an “intelligence” or “street-smartness”, it was (properly) the **Godly** **virtuousness gained and grown by His shaping … an strengthening and ongoing growth in divine understanding and direction called “discernment”**. **It was, literally, what was known as the learning of God and learning to be Godly**.

**Text**

And **Proverbs** is a book **all about that**. Seldom preached from for whatever reason, but useable constantly (**ought to be**)to teach and **raise up of children of all ages**. Proverbs is steady to describe the distinction between “foolishness” and “folly” and “Wisdom, calling the **naïve** “**simple**” or “**lacking in sense**” as it does in Proverbs 9.

And here’s where C.S. Lewis helps me understand that “**simplicity**” and “**non-sense**”. He **locates it**, calling the **chest** **of a person** (as in, the **heart and soul**) where “Wisdom” resides (when it does), but things like what we heard about last week in “the futility of the mind and darkened understanding”) of the **head** and the embracing of a Jezebel-like lustfulness of the **gut** or **belly**. **Head and gut influence problematic but the heart (or center “chest area”) noble**, **that’s** how Lewis **locates** the **three sources motivating every human choice and action**. Then (in all his writings and in different ways in each of them), he encourages an engagement away from the perimeters and always from the **middle way or place**. He wants (in all that he writing) to encourage **“Wisdom” through the heart to guide us, well-knowing and conquering in us the arrogant influences of our head and, then also, the fickle and moody influences of our gut**.

**This** is what I **enjoy about reading C.S. Lewis**: he’s **this-concern-focused** and **clarifies the issue by personifying sources and the motivation of thoughts and acts, so “discerns” humanity for me … and my humanity as well**. **Human gut- and belly-level desire (the expression of “selfish thoughts” and “selfish feelings”) comes from the locations of the brain or the gut (neither tempered by the heart and soul)**. “**God’s will” (when it’s expressed by me) echoes from Him through a heart (a chest) that’s His**.

In Proverbs, “Wisdom” is personified … a **Named One** … “Sophia” in Greek, but really God’s Son: it’s **Jesus in the** **heart and chest of us**. Our choices and actions are wise, then, **when** (and only when) “wisdom (who is Jesus) controls is (and is in) our **controlling center** … the One **possessing and teaching and directing our center**.

If you’d not **that before** (that **God’s Son is the “Wisdom” of all the wisdom literature like Proverbs**), **hear it, for sure, then, now**. “Wisdom’s” **always existed** **(from before creation and even within the eternal existence of the Godhead)**, and **always has** been known as the **PERSONIFICATION OF THE SON** by ancient scholarship. The **Person** is **the One who is** **the** “**Word**” (the “**logos**” from where we get the word “logic” so every ounce of knowledge and discernment and awareness). Jesus is **Him** as John’s Gospel starts by telling us … Him from forever … even before time.

And the **EXPRESSION** of **God’s Son** **through the human heart** is what Proverbs calls “**insight**”. It’s **why** I **like that word**: it describes the beautiful **growth in understanding and expression (choice and activity) of a maturing believer**. And “insight’s) one of those words that’s not been **mis-defined** or **softened** inappropriately. It’s, therefore, **useful**, **still having** the mystical (or mysterious) nature to slap a non-mystical culture with.

So, **hear, then, the glorious invitation made from God’s Son, Jesus, in Proverbs 9**: “**He’s** **built His house** **(gathered His people into His Church that He’s constructed based upon Himself / Wisdom / Truth / Reality) and hewn (or carved out for her foundation and display to the world) her seven (the perfect number-of) pillars. He’s sacrificed (He being the slaughtered beast / His willing death upon a cross), and mixed His wine and set His table (the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom that’s also give to be participated-with here … upon tables in His Churches). He has sent out His servants (young women virginal waiting purely for Him He calls His own) to call from the highest places of the town, ‘Whoever is simple (or unlearned of Him) turn in here!’ ‘To him who lacks sense’ His own voice extends from His, again, young women: ‘Come, eat of My Wise Bread and drink of the wine that I have mixed.** **Leave your simple ways** and **live**, and **walk in the way of** **insight**.’”

**And “INSIGHT” IS THE**

**DEVOURING OF THE MYSTERIOUS GIFTS OF “WISDOM” ….**

You can hear the Heavenly Father **teaching even His own Son in that** as the Proverb continues: “Whoever corrects a scoffer gets Himself abuse, and He who reproves a wicked man incurs injury”, and Jesus certainly Himself incurred the injury of rejection with, also, the whippings and crucifixion of the “wicked”. But **His efforts are encouraged upon those listening to the mysteries of His “Wisdom”**: “Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate You; reprove a **wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning**.”

Jesus **faced** “scoffers” and the “wicked”. John’s chapter 6 **accounts His Words being as “insightful” as they were in Proverbs 9**. “Insight” is mysterious and mystical, and Jesus **gave “insight” to those listening**, that “unless one eats of the flesh of the Son of Man and drinks His blood, you have no life in you. My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in Him … in the very heart- and soul-, chest and center-of) Him.”

Disciples (some turning out to be **“scoffers”**) said to this: “This is a **hard saying**; **who can listen to it?**” And “**after this many of his disciples** **turned back and no longer walked with Him**. So Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘Do **you want to go away as well?**’ And Simon Peter answered Him (as everyone who want to be **of “insight”** must) “Lord, **to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know (or grown into a discerning of), that You are the Holy One of God**.” ….

 Proverbs 9 says that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the **knowledge of the Holy One is insight**”. Simon Peter expressed that “insight” in his “knowledge of the Holy One” … what he would **come to learn and express all the more as his future progressed**.

**Application**

I told you that I’m preaching through the book of **Ephesians** and, today, I’ve yet to touch upon it. **IT** **is mysterious and “insightful” in contrasting darkness from “light” and “foolishness” from “understanding”**. Embedded in **ITS center** **(ITS HEART AND CHEST)** is an old **baptismal hymn that goes (and you can see it there): “Arise, O sleeper, and arise from the dead”**, and, then (**here’s** the promise of “**insight” and growth** **then gained to be expressed from the life-from-death in that new birth, staying to learn Christ’s control**: “and **Christ will shine on you**.”

**His** “**shine**” is **He /** **Himself / His Words (all of them) as “Wisdom”**. **Our** **gain** is **“insight”** as in an **ever new and growing knowledge of God with His direction and our expressions of ourselves (less and less of our head and gut), but, instead, from and of a heart that is His (so choices and actions more and more according to His will and His Good pleasure)**.

Next weekend we’re going to hear Him **apply this “insight”** to marriages and parenthood and employment. But, for today, the **application** (and first and foremost because it must be first and foremost)is that **we GAIN “insight” from “Wisdom” WITH our spouses and families, friends and neighbors and co-workers. “Come, eat of My bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”** So we pray to be motivated by Christ to do in +His name, Jesus. Amen.