

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

God Defines Wisdom

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

February 1st, 2026

Scriptures:

Proverbs 14:1–35

Theme: To walk uprightly define wisdom in relation to the Lord.

Introduction: Ever since the Fall, Satan has disguised himself, presenting himself and his lies as reasonable and wise. And now, everywhere in our world, foolishness is considered wise, and wisdom is considered foolish. Proverbs 14 shifts from the theme of righteousness vs wickedness to the theme of wisdom vs foolishness. Throughout the chapter, it is God who defines what wisdom is.

There are five ways in Proverbs 14 that we can define and embrace godly wisdom:

1. Reject Foolish "Wisdom" (1–9)

- Wisdom is only wise if it flows from God, and pleasing God results in the best life.
- If Proverbs are applied without reference to God, they quickly go off the rails.

2. Practice Internal Wisdom (10–14)

- Who we are today and what we believe is the result of many decisions made along life's road.
- We must take care of our internal conversations; the backslider and the wise man are both filled with the fruits of their ways (v. 14).

3. Apply Wisdom to Experience (15–18)

- The simpleton insists on remaining simple and never holds himself accountable. He does not give thought to his steps (unlike the wise).
- If a Christian fell for or supported ideologies such as Black Lives Matter, the Me-Too movement, or tyrannical COVID overreach, they should repudiate it.

4. Observe the Effect of Wisdom (19–27)

- Wisdom affects individuals and those around them.
- God-defined wisdom causes God's people to understand how reality works.

5. Call Government to Wisdom (28–35)

- One of the responsibilities of God's people is to know what is righteous and to call the government to that standard.
- We are in this world and must therefore have an effect on it.

Questions:

1. Reflecting on the main points from the sermon, think through what it would look like for you to:
 - a. Reject foolish "wisdom"
 - b. Practice internal wisdom
 - c. Apply wisdom to experience
 - d. Observe the effect of wisdom
 - e. Call government to wisdom