

FOOD 4 THOUGHT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



Science and wisdom

A person famous for his wealth of knowledge took his family to the seaside for a day of relaxation. When it came time to go home, the car got stuck in the sand on the beach. They tried to push it out, putting pieces of wood under the wheels. The sand was so dry that the car was sinking more and more.

There was no one to help them. The tide was rising and soon the area would be under water.

Then they saw someone walking slowly toward them. They called to him to make haste, but he approached unhurriedly. When he finally drew near and saw the situation, he showed no concern. He told them to be calm and he would help.

The tide was near, but the man did not appear anxious. When the water came very close, he said, "Climb in and start the engine." When the sand was wet around the car, he shouted, "Drive forward!" Then the car easily drove out of the sand.

This story is a simple example of the difference between science and wisdom. The learned man had a lot of knowledge, but the villager, who did not know the chemical formula for water, knew about life by the sea.

Science is the objective knowledge of a subject; wisdom applies that knowledge to daily life.

Ideally we should find both in the same person. However, although there is much knowledge in the world, there is much lack of wisdom.

Science is achieved by studying or reading, getting educated. Science helps us to investigate everything in the universe, but if we do not have questions about its Creator, our knowledge is limited and insufficient to prepare us for the final destination of our existence. Today's world seems to revolve on the axis of science. But knowledge alone does not provide satisfaction and happiness.

But how is wisdom gained? King David, a great poet and writer of antiquity said: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments."* (Psalm 111: 10).

In the Bible, the apostle James said, *"Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom"* (James 3:13).

Science helps us design new tools, cure diseases, and prolong life. Wisdom helps us understand the meaning of life, to live it fully, with a focus on eternity. It all begins when we draw near to God.

Has your knowledge brought you wisdom?

Pride and timidity



At a birthday party, the guests were enjoying some board games. One of the guests offered to lead a game he said would be very interesting.

After explaining well what he planned to do, he asked for volunteers among the guests. After insisting a bit, there were four volunteers.

The interesting thing about this was not the game itself, which was nothing extraordinary, but the fact that some came forward to participate in the game, while others chose to observe. One of those present said: "Some of us are timid and others more daring".

"Very true", we might say concerning the comment, but who was who? Who were the proud? Those who volunteered or those who sat back to watch?

Usually, we have accepted without much analysis the idea that the man, woman or young person who retires from public life or avoids occasions of being in front of people, is a humble or shy person. However, if we think a little about the real reason for such behavior, we see that, on the contrary, this can be a very proud individual. Before volunteering he considers carefully whether he is sure to succeed. Therefore, his participation is limited to the things he knows well, that is, in what he can excel and feel superior.

Shyness and arrogance can be only symptoms of a deficiency of character development, a huge sense of insecurity.

The prideful person is afraid that others might be better than him, so he attempts to prove his superiority by displaying his talents, even adding exaggeration or falsehood.

We must recognize that we are all at least a little proud and a little shy. However, we should not excuse it as normal or, even less, as necessary.

When we recognize that we were created by God for fellowship with Him, we have enough reason to feel loved and accepted. If we are not satisfied with ourselves or what we are, we must not look for social prestige, but recognize that something is wrong in the inner life. There is some kind of conflict or fear in the center of our being, which is the result of our separation from our Creator. Consequently, the solution lies in a return to God, which is the central message of the gospel of Christ.

Speaking of this, the Lord Jesus said, "*Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ... My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.*" (John 14: 1 and 27). □

What is true freedom?



Christians proclaim their faith as one of freedom. However, for some people this statement seems contradictory because they say there are many laws and obligations if one wants to go to Heaven. One has to deprive oneself of many enjoyable pastimes, performing a number of duties that he or she does not really want to do. There seems to be no freedom in that.

Unfortunately, this is a mistaken idea of what it means to be a Christian. It does not consist of prohibitions or obligations, but the freedom to decide if what you do is for good or evil.

The many things that Christians should not do, they actually do. Yet, they make a choice not to do them because they desire and have something better.

The Christian does not need to drown his troubles in alcohol or drugs, or other temporary pleasures that ultimately solve nothing and

eventually cause serious problems.

The Christian life is full of meaningful activities and is not boring at any time when a believer seeks to serve God and others.

Moreover, faith and confidence is knowing that Jesus Christ is in the life of every Christian, no matter what happens, contributes to the overall well-being of a person whose internal conflicts have been resolved.

However, to have this true freedom it is necessary to establish a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. To do this, we must recognize that we are sinners, repent, confess our sin and accept His death on the cross in our place.

Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life ..."* (John 14: 6) and *"You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."* (John 8:32).

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Living for the past or future

Older people often speak wistfully of their childhood or youth. For them, everything was better in the old days. If only we could go back in time, everything would be solved.

However, history does not entirely support that idea. When we look closely at the data, the past was not very different from the present.

Many things have changed, some for the worse and some for the better; but it is very easy to forget how bad the past was and only retain the good memories.

Usually we recognize that although there were bad things in the past, at least we survived. Whereas the new customs threaten "stability" and we prefer to endure the difficulties of yesterday and not run the risk of something new that could be worse. We say, "Better a known evil than an unknown good."

On this subject the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, said in Ecclesiastes 7:10: *"Do not say, 'Why is it that the former days were better than these?' For it is not from wisdom that you ask about this'."*

According to Solomon, we should not look back to see if we can find something better. The best is always in the future, because we have not even scratched the surface of the wonders that God has for us.

Since your life is not perfect, then you can always

improve. Since you don't know everything, then there is something new to be learned. That door to what's new, which we fear to open, may be the solution to many problems.

God created human beings with untold possibilities of triumph and accomplishment. The fear of change and uncertainty about the future are defensive attitudes which become a mysterious barrier one imposes on oneself. If a person becomes convinced that it is better to stay where he is and not risk change, that person will never reach his potential.

Longing for the past means that one feels unable to address new situations and prefers to return to a comfortable, safe time when there was no risk and no need for learning or effort. Of course, this supposed untroubled time never existed and never will exist.

Time does not stand still. If we do not move forward, we are actually moving backward. On the other hand, the future is ahead of us and our present attitude will either bring the desired results or unpleasant consequences. Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ said: *"What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?"* (Matthew 16:26).

Today is the day to prepare for the future by starting a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, to accept the forgiveness of our sins because of His death and resurrection. This relationship will enable you to look forward with confidence.