

# Wisdom

#0183

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—October 20, 1978

Before we turn to some texts and quotations, I'd like to present to you a word with six letters, and note the importance of each one of the letters: W-I-S-D-O-M.

Which one of these letters do you think is most important? This young man says that he thinks they're *all* important. Would you agree with him? Can you spell "wisdom" and leave out any one of the six letters? No.

Now I'm going to present some various letters tonight, and I have chosen this introduction because I fear that the people that already had quite a bit of "W" might miss the "M" because they think it looks upside-down, you understand, and "M" is an upside-down "W," or "W" is an upside-down "M." Am I right?

When I was a boy, I was a printer, and in those days we set lead type in the typecast. And when we got in a real jam and didn't have enough W's, we'd invert an M and vice-versa, and it gets by. But still there is a little difference, isn't there?

My point is, we need all six letters to spell wisdom. And that's just a graphic way of representing this fact: that wisdom is not found in merely one facet. We need the whole picture to understand God's truth. Many of the errors that have plagued the church from time to time have come about through individuals taking one phase of truth, one truth if you please, and refining that and discarding, or de-emphasizing other phases or facets of truth. We need the *whole* truth to make a *whole* man *wholly* ready for the coming of our Lord.

In Matthew 15:13, we have a text that I want you to take a look at. You know when Christ came, the Living Truth, the Author of all truth, the religious leaders and teachers, the educators, the intellectuals of His time rejected Him. And some of them doubtless really thought that He wasn't giving the message the way it should be given. In fact, we're told in the 12<sup>th</sup> verse that they were offended by what He said.

But now notice the 13<sup>th</sup> verse, will you read it with me?

"But He answered and said, Every plant which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" Matthew 15:13.

Everybody here, I suppose loves to garden, I trust so. You all know that there are plants coming up in gardens that the Lord didn't plant. Who did plant them? What do we call them? Weeds. Do you know what a weed is? It's simply a perversion of a good plant that God did plant. That's all a weed is.

Satan is not a creator. He never created anything. He cannot bring life from the lifeless. But he can take a beautiful rose and pervert it through his processes of

selection and amalgamation so that it goes thorns. Luther Burbank, called the plant wizard a generation ago, was successful through his study of nature in experimentation in producing spineless cactus. And I thought as I heard about it, if a mere man's mind can develop a spineless cactus from a spiny cactus, surely the enemy can develop a spine-filled cactus from one that has no spines.

But remember, that's not creation; that's perversion. That's change. That's distortion. And I ask again, what do we call those plants in the garden that God didn't plant? Weeds.

“...Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” Matthew 15:13.

We can have our choice, dear friends. We can either work with God to get the weeds out of our individual heart gardens now, or else, when the whole garden has gone to weeds, the whole thing will have to be burnt up. That's what the fires of the last day are all about—destroying the last vestiges of Satan's perversions. And so you and I are in a time of choosing.

Now in order to pluck up a weed, we must, of course, recognize it. A novice sent to weed the garden may end up, as I have seen it done, people pulling up plants that should have been left. So we have to watch that too. Mere activity is not enough. Mere earnestness, mere *zeal* in getting rid of the weeds is not sufficient. We must discern:

“...Every plant, which My heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up” Matthew 15:13.

All this is by way of prelude or introduction. We're going to look now at 2 Timothy 2:15. Watch for W-I-S-D-O-M tonight. In other words, watch for wisdom in its various facets, its various elements. And be careful that the thing you focus on is the part you may not have in good supply. If you already have plenty of “W” maybe you need some “S” or “M.” Watch.

Remember, the thing you need most tonight will be the thing you are least inclined to recognize and accept. And before we get through tonight we will give things from various angles on some very important points of truth, and what appeals to one will not appeal to somebody else. I tell you that in advance. But God help us to be willing to recognize weeds and get them pulled up, to recognize truth and accept it with all our hearts. What do you say?

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” 2 Timothy 2:15.

Whose approval are we to seek? God's. And in order to get it we must do what? Study. And if we study to show ourselves approved unto God, the result will be that we will be a workman that need not what? Be ashamed.

What would make a worker ashamed? What should make a workman ashamed? Not able to do his job. Not able to succeed. You remember the disciples had that problem on one occasion while Christ was in the mount of transfiguration. They tried to heal somebody and didn't succeed. They were ashamed and disappointed. Christ helped them to find out the reason.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”  
2 Timothy 2:15.

So God is calling us to earnest study, and this study, my friends, is to continue as long as life shall last. Our education is never completed in this life. In fact, all through eternity we shall be going to school. Through eternal ages, it will always be true that God is our Teacher and that we are students in the school of Heaven. I'm glad for that, aren't you?

Notice that this verse is an appeal for careful work, earnest work, diligent work, exact work.

“Study to show thyself approved unto God...”  
2 Timothy 2:15.

Can you think of any inspector more careful than God? He looks beneath the surface. He discerns not only what we accomplish, but our motives. He's looking into every phase of our life.

In the book *Ministry of Healing*, page 499, I read:

“Whatever your work, do it with exactness, with diligence...  
The same spirit and principles that one brings into the daily labor will be brought into the whole life” *Ministry of Healing*, page 499.

We're living in an age, a permissive age, where sloppy work is more and more the average. God desires His workers, the members of His church, to reach a standard of exactness and carefulness such as the world knows little of today. He desires that this shall be seen in our daily work—the way we do our garden work, the way we wash the dishes, the way we cook the meals, the way we do everything in our life; for what did I read in *Ministry of Healing* there?

“The same spirit and principles that one brings into the daily labor will be brought into the whole life” *Ibid.*

What did Jesus spend more time in during the time that He was in this world than any other one activity? Manual labor. Work in the carpentry shop and in the home, doing what might be called “humdrum things.” But into that work, He brought a zeal for perfection that brought honor to His heavenly Father.

In the book *Counsels to Teachers*, page 470, we hear an earnest exhortation to medical missionaries. There are several here tonight.

“Every physician, every nurse, every helper, who has anything to do in God’s service, must aim at perfection. Nothing short of this standard is pleasing to Him who has called us to be co-laborers with Him. And especially should those who are in training to act as His medical missionaries turn resolutely from every temptation to be satisfied with a superficial knowledge of their profession. Let them rather reach upward to perfection” *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, page 470.

What word has been repeated in these few lines twice? Perfection. Perfection. We’re to aim at perfection. We’re to reach upward to perfection.

“Theirs is a most exacting calling, and their preparation must be painstaking and thorough” *Ibid*.

Now, some of you will say amen to what I’ve just read. I hope you’ll be able to have grace and wisdom to say amen to the rest of the study as well. I’m giving you more than one letter in the word wisdom tonight, W-I-S-D-O-M. It takes all six to spell the word. And I have just brought you one very vital facet, this exhortation to thoroughness, to aim at perfection, to accept nothing less than this is our goal in every activity in life. Spiritual, mental, intellectual, physical, everything that we do, our aim, our goal should be what? Perfection.

Now there are two fallacies that if we’re not careful we may fall into, one or the other or both. The first mistaken idea is that only those who have reached this perfection should be accepted as workers for God. That no one but a master of his trade should be allowed to work. That no one but a master of his profession should be allowed to have any part in the work. This is a fallacy, as we shall soon show.

A second fallacy is this: that this ability is evidenced by certification. That the way you know whether a man is ready to accept responsibility is that he produces his diploma, he shows his degree, and this is the evidence that he is ready. If he has that certification, he is accepted. If he does not have it, then he is not. Both of these are fallacies.

But now note that each of these fallacies have some elements of truth in them. And let’s not miss the truth. The element of truth in the first fallacy is that a novice should not attempt everything. For example, a novice shouldn’t attempt to drive a car. Why not? Why shouldn’t a novice attempt to drive an automobile? It’s dangerous. Somebody says it might cause an accident.

A novice shouldn’t attempt to take out a man’s appendix. Would you agree with that?

The second fallacy that we pointed out was that it is supposed by many that evidence of readiness to accept responsibility is certification. I say that’s a fallacy, but it has some elements of truth in it. For example, the state requires you to take an

examination and get what in order to drive an automobile on the highways? An operator's license.

The same state government that requires an operator's license to drive an automobile requires a license, a different kind of license, before a man is allowed to take out somebody's appendix. Is that correct? I want you to notice what kind of law Inspiration says that is; you'll find it in the book *Medical Ministry*:

"Wise laws have been framed in order to safeguard the people against the imposition of unqualified physicians. These laws we should respect, for we are ourselves by them protected from presumptuous pretenders" *Medical Ministry*, page 84.

What kind of laws does Inspiration say these laws of the state are? Wise laws.

And what attitude should we take toward them? Respect it.

It brings us back to this matter of thoroughness, doesn't it?

But you say, "Brother Frazee, it looks to me that you've demolished the idea that these two things are fallacies."

No, I haven't. I just want to be sure that we're getting the weeds out of the garden, and not the carrots, or the lettuce, or the turnips, or the corn, or the wheat.

"...Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" Matthew 15:13.

It would be too bad for us, my dear friends, to go to either extreme in these matters. It would be too bad for us to get the idea that no man should do anything until he is perfectly qualified and that the evidence of it is some certificate. But it would be too bad for us in fleeing from that lion to fall right into the arms of a bear. It'd be too bad. And if we run from both of them and run in and get bit by a serpent as Amos says, that would be too bad too, wouldn't it?

What kind of laws did we read here are these laws that govern medical practice? Wise laws. And we're to do what? Respect them.

Now notice how beautifully this is put together by Inspiration showing how God wants to have qualified, by education and practice, men who have received the legal licensure to lead out in medical work, how God intends that under the direction of these there should be many, many workers with lesser responsibilities all cooperating to roll back the terrific tide of disease.

My mind was led to this, this week as I read the current *U. S. News and World Report*. Three pages of this week's issue are devoted to this article as medics take over the duties of doctors. The headline says, "In Clinics, Hospitals, and Ambulances, men and women without M. D. degrees are giving added scope to the nation's medical care." It's quite an interesting article, the pictures and all. And it made me think of something in *Counsels on Health* written before the man that wrote

that article was born. It was inspired then, and it's still inspired. You'll find it in *Counsels on Health*, page 538:

“Much good can be done by those who do not hold diplomas as fully accredited physicians. Some are to be prepared to work as competent physicians. Many, working under the direction of such ones, can do acceptable work without spending so long a time in study as it has been thought necessary to spend in the past” *Counsels on Health*, page 538.

And so we have here in inspiration, written long ago, a plan for using the best-qualified workers to lead out in training and using a whole army of helpers in order to accomplish more.

Now, why am I taking the time of this audience to study this? It is not simply because I know that there are a number of medical missionaries here.

“We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work”  
*Ibid.*, page 425.

That's an inspired statement. And the principles that we're studying apply in every other activity. They apply in every phase of soul-winning. The enemy has scored a point when people get the idea that soul-winning, for example, is such an important work that nobody but highly-trained ministers and Bible workers should do much about it.

“Oh, well, laymen can distribute literature. Laymen can invite people to meetings. Laymen might even visit the sick and pray with them, but the actual work of soul-winning, that must be done by a highly trained technician.”

No. This is a mistake, dear friends. God intends that across the board, in healing, in teaching, and preaching, we should educate multitudes of workers. But dear friends, this does not mean that we're to do sloppy work. This does not mean that we're to do work that's not thorough. Thank God, His plan has a place for every human being. And God intends that the church, the *organized* church, shall move forward like a mighty army with generals, and captains, and lieutenants, and privates, thank God, thousands of them, millions of them, marching on to finish the work of God in the earth. That's His plan.

And God intends that His ordained ministers and his properly trained and recognized medical workers shall be leaders in leading the whole church into an effort to meet the needs of suffering humanity physically, mentally, and spiritually. There's something for you to do, my friend. There's something for you to do.

Now we've spent quite a bit of time emphasizing the importance of thoroughness and strictness and high standards. But remember, this is not to discourage earnest activity on the part of everybody. Notice this wonderful statement here in *Volume 7*, page 280:

“God calls for workers. The cause needs men who are self-made, who, placing themselves in the hands of the Lord as humble learners, have proved themselves workers together with Him... Let them step into the ranks of workers and by patient, continuous effort prove their worth. It is in the water, not on the land, that we learn to swim” *Testimonies for the Church, Volume 7*, page 280.

Will you repeat that sentence with me? “It is in the water, not on the land, that we learn to swim.”

May I quickly point out two things? While I may learn to swim in the water, if I’m just learning, it would be a good thing to have a lifeguard in there watching me. Would you agree? That’s right. And, number two (and this is perhaps most important), how foolish, how *criminal* it would be for me to pose as a lifeguard when I haven’t even learned to become an expert in swimming myself. What do you say?

Oh, my dear friends, there’s room for everybody if we’ll just use some good common sense. Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom.

Now some more balancing statements:

“Young men and young women, gather a stock of knowledge. Do not wait until some human examination pronounces you competent to work” *Ibid.*, page 281.

That’s what this says. Everybody is not to wait to have a certificate, or a diploma, or a degree. Those may have their place. They do have their place with certain types of workers. But I’m reading from Inspiration. Listen:

“Do not wait until some human examination pronounces you competent to work, but go out into the highways and hedges, and begin to work for God. Use wisely the knowledge you have” *Ibid.*

May I comment? Use the knowledge you have, not your ignorance. Keep that hidden. Don’t pose as a lifeguard when you’re just learning to swim.

“Constantly improve. Keep reaching higher and still higher. It is the ability to put to the tax the powers of mind and body, ever keeping eternal realities in view, that is of value now. Seek the Lord most earnestly, that you may become more and more refined, more spiritually cultured. Then you will have the very best diploma that anyone can have—the endorsement of God” *Ibid.*

Isn’t that beautiful, friends? What’s the very best diploma that anyone can have? The endorsement of God.

But no matter what I say on the subject that we're studying tonight, I long to say in the same breathe the other thing. When I speak about the importance of giving a place to the common people, I long to impress upon everyone the need for thoroughness and respect for the laws. What did Inspiration call them? Wise laws. The need for leadership that is competent.

And when I emphasize the importance of that, then I long for grace to help every such leader to become a trainer of others, an inspiration to others. Every ordained minister, every physician, every trained nurse, every other worker that has had special training, should feel that a responsibility rests upon them to gather around them cores of workers, disciples, who will share with them in the work.

Jesus did that, my friends. Did you know there was one thing that the Scribes and Pharisees couldn't understand? They never got over it. They couldn't understand why Christ went down to the Sea of Galilee and picked up fishermen to train in that kind of work.

They couldn't understand how He went to the tax-collecting office and picked up Matthew and took him with Him, and trained him to be a medical missionary. They never could understand that. And they can't understand it today, my friends. The Scribes and Pharisees don't understand it. But oh, that God may help us to recognize the call of God.

In the book *Education*, that marvelous essay on the science of training children and men and women as workers for God, we have in that climactic chapter on the lifework, this interesting statement:

"In this closing work of the gospel there is a vast field to be occupied; and, more than ever before, the work is to enlist helpers from the common people. Both the youth and those older in years will be called from the field, from the vineyard, and from the workshop, and sent forth by the Master to give His message. Many of these have had little opportunity for education; but Christ sees in them qualifications that will enable them to fulfill His purpose" *Education*, pages 269–270.

God give us anointed eyes to see it also. What do you say?

"Laborers from the common people, sharing the sorrows of their fellow men as their Master shared the sorrows of the whole human race, will by faith see Him working with them" *Ibid*.

Now, dear friends, in the early years of this century, as the foundations of the medical missionary training work in southern California were being laid by Inspiration, a warning was given. You will find it in the book *Loma Linda Messages* Listen:

"We are made sad as we see in many places so much left undone that should be done. But the Lord will use in the



accomplishment of His work means that we do not now see. He will raise up from among the common people, men and women to do His work, even as of old He called fishermen to be His disciples. There will soon be an awakening that will surprise many. Those who do not realize the necessity of what is to be done, will be passed by, and the heavenly messengers will work with those who are called the common people, fitting them to carry the truth to many places” *Loma Linda Messages*, page 83.

Now I come back to what I started with, W-I-S-D-O-M. Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom. I’ve given you several different facets of truth, each one of which is important, and there is no way to get the wisdom that God wants you and me to have for this closing work unless we get every letter in that word. And so if there’s somebody here that’s been inclined to be sloppy or un-thorough; somebody that has been inclined to chafe at restrictions of a legal or denominational character, then I appeal to you, my dear friends, come into line.

On the other hand, if there’s somebody that has been inclined to overemphasize professional recognition, somebody that has been inclined to look down upon the common people and feel that they have either got to be certified or else there’s no place for them, then I appeal to you, my friend, come into line.

God is getting ready to do a work that will surprise many. He wants you and me to have a part in it. If we have degrees, certification, God will use them if we’ll be humble. If we don’t have them, He has a place for us if we’ll be humble. But God has no place in His work for the proud, whether it be the pride of professionalism, or the pride of ignorance. I don’t know which is the worse, my friends. Both are a terrible plague. God give us the humility of Paul along with His educational finesse. What do you say?

And God give us the willingness of Peter and Matthew to leave the common things of life if God so calls us, and give the remainder of our lives to the finishing of His work and the spreading of His message.

Now, I want you to remember what we read there that this affects everything in life. And in these closing moments, I want you to think of it on the spiritual plane as it affects Christian experience. If you and I were to wait to work for Jesus spiritually until we were perfect, how many of us would have the courage to start? Not a one of us.

Do you remember that man that had the demon and Jesus cast out the demon, and do you remember what that man wanted to do? He wanted to go home with Jesus. I don’t blame him, do you? What did Jesus tell him? Go back to your friends and do what? “Tell them and show them what great things God has done for you.”

Now friends, there were many things that that healed demoniac couldn’t do. And Jesus didn’t send him out to be a pretender, to bluff his way. He didn’t send him out to *pretend* to be an ordained minister, or *pretend* to be a doctor, or *pretend* to be a professor. He didn’t tell him to do anything of those things at all. He sent him out

to do something very simple, very important. What was it? Tell them what great things God has done for you, and He's had compassion.

Did he do it? Yes. Did it work? Thank God, friends. You and I can be witnesses for Jesus of what He's done for us, physically, mentally, and spiritually. And if we'll keep our humble place as witnesses, there's plenty to keep us busy from now till Jesus comes. What do you say?

This should encourage the timid one, the uneducated one, the weak one. Is there somebody here tonight that has been discouraged because you feel other people can do the work so much better? Brother or Sister, I have good news for you. You know what we do when we're packing suitcases, and we're going on a long trip, and we only have so much space? We put in the big things, and then we fill in the little spaces with what? Little things.

Do you know what God does with humble workers? He uses them to fill up the gaps that more experienced, more talented workers leave. And so, if you're just a humble, inexperienced person that even counts yourself ignorant, if you'll be content to do the little work that you can do, and not blow up and pretend to be something that you're not, if you'll be willing, humbly to witness to Jesus and for Jesus and what He's done for you, you can reach people that more experienced people can't reach at all. God says you can.

Will you do it? Will you give your life to Jesus and let Him use you?

Do you remember a few weeks ago I studied with you about happy managers, stewardship? We're not owners; we're agents, we're managers. And God has chosen the weak things of this world to confound the things that are mighty, but they must never forget that they're weak, and they must always remember that their strength is from Jesus.

May we bow our heads?

Blessed Lord, may Thy Holy Spirit rightly interpret to our heart the great principles of truth that we have studied tonight. And may each worker, trained or untrained, skilled or unskilled, experienced or inexperienced, may he find his place in Thy total plan. Keep us from the extremes of professionalism and anarchy, we pray.

Help us to respect law in church and state, and to enlarge our vision to include the laymen that together we may build the army that plants the banner of triumph on the eternal heights. And in our individual lives, teach us to witnesses for Thee and to trust the dear Lord to make up our deficiencies. We ask it in His name, amen.

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