

QUIETING A NOISY SOUL

JIM BERG

Part Two: The Way Back

Session 11

Beholding the God of Wisdom

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” Romans 11:33

A. How Much Does God Know?

“Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite’ (Psalm 147:5). God not only knows whatsoever has happened in the past in every part of His vast domain, and He is not only thoroughly acquainted with everything that is now transpiring throughout the entire universe, but He is also perfectly cognizant of every event, from the least to the greatest, that ever will happen in the ages to come. God’s knowledge of the future is as complete as is His knowledge of the past and the present, and that, because the future depends entirely upon Himself. Were it in anywise possible for something to occur apart from either the direct agency or permission of God, then that something would be independent of Him, and He would at once cease to be Supreme.” [A.W. Pink, *The Attributes of God* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1975), 19]

1. God’s knowledge is _____ (omniscience).
 - ☛ Psalm 139:1-6; Daniel 2:22; Ezekiel 11:5
 - a. It is, therefore, _____.
 - 1) God does not _____ anything.
 - 2) God does not _____ about anything
 - b. It is, therefore, _____.
 - 1) God never gets _____ information.
 - 2) God never needs _____ information.
 - c. The only proper responses to this kind of knowledge is
 - 1) _____—Psalm 139:6
 - 2) _____—Revelation 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-2a
2. God’s knowledge is _____.
 - a. We often cannot understand _____.
 - ☛ “As we watch tragic events unfolding, or more particularly as we experience adversity ourselves, we often are prone to ask God, ‘why?’ The reason we ask is because we do not see any possible good to us or glory to God that can come from the particular adverse circumstances that have come upon us or our loved ones. But is not the wisdom of God—thus the glory of God—more eminently displayed in bringing good out of calamity than out of blessing?”

“The wisdom of the chess player is displayed more in winning over a capable opponent than over a novice. The wisdom of the general is displayed more in defeating a superior army than in subduing an inferior one. Even more so, the wisdom of God is displayed when He brings good to us and glory to Himself out of confusion and calamity rather than out of pleasant times.” [Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1988), 119]
 - ☛ Hebrews 12:11; Romans 8:28-29
 - b. We are called upon, rather, to understand _____.

- ☞ We are seeking satisfaction in knowing what is going on and why. Our satisfaction, however, must come from knowing _____ is at work in all these things.
- ☞ “C.H. Spurgeon, ...in his sermon on divine providence, said, ‘Providence is wonderfully intricate. Ah! You want always to see through Providence, do you not? You never will, I assure you. You have not eyes good enough. You want to see what good that affliction was to you; you must believe it. You want to see how it can bring good to your soul; you may be enabled in a little time; but you can not see it now; you must believe it. Honor God by trusting Him.’” [Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1988), 127]

B. What is Wisdom?

1. Wisdom is _____ and _____ the best means to the best end.
 - ☞ “In addition to knowing all the relevant data on any subject, God selects ends with discernment and acts in harmony with His purposes of holy love. We may not always be able to see that events in our lives work together for a wise purpose, but we know that God chooses from among all the possible alternatives the best ends and means for achieving them. God not only chooses the right ends but also for the right reasons, the good of His creatures and thus His glory...the divine omniscience is aware not only of what is, but also what ought to be [morally].” [Walter A. Elwell, *Evangelical Dictionary of Theology* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1984), 457-58]
2. Wisdom must choose upon the knowledge of the _____.
3. Wisdom must choose upon the knowledge of correct _____.
 - ☞ No decision is wise that is not _____ and _____ good and benevolent.
 - ☞ This is why many believers will never make the right decisions in the areas of so-called Christian liberty. They are not concerned about the moral and ethical excellence in their own lives, let alone, trying to call attention to God’s moral and ethical excellence. And they are often not concerned about benevolence—the welfare of others.
 - ☞ You cannot have right _____ without understanding your context.
4. “With the goodness of God to desire our highest welfare, the wisdom of God to plan it, and the power of God to achieve it, what do we lack? Surely we are the most favored of all creatures.” [A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (Lincoln, NE: Back to the Bible Broadcast, 1961), 70]

CONCLUSION: My soul can rest because God’s
_____ is more than enough for me.