

## **CHAPTER 17**

### **CONCLUSION AND CALL TO ACTION**

*All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things are mine,  
says the LORD.  
But this is the man to whom I will look,  
he that is humble and contrite in spirit,  
and trembles at my word.  
Isaiah 66:2 (RSV)*

*if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.  
2 Chronicles 7:14 (RSV)*

*For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel.  
Ezra 7:10 (RSV)*

*You have commanded your precepts  
to be kept diligently.  
Psalm 119:4 (ESV)*

<sup>9</sup> *How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By guarding it according to your word.  
<sup>10</sup> With my whole heart I seek you;  
let me not wander from your commandments!  
<sup>11</sup> I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.  
Psalm 119:9-11 (ESV)*

*Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.  
Psalm 119:34 (ESV)*

#### **How to make the best possible use of this book**

We have covered a lot of ground in this book and looked at many topics and issues which most Christians would not associate with the pursuit of wisdom, even in so far as they ever give a moment's thought to what wisdom is or how it is attained. You will hopefully also have concluded that you are currently far less wise than you had supposed, or even that you are not wise at all, but just simple. You will probably realise that there are traces of foolishness too, at least at times, or in certain parts of your conduct and character.

Whatever stage you might currently be at on the 'spectrum' from wicked to wise, choose now to make it your lifelong aim to become wise, and to get rid of any remaining foolishness or naivety that is still present within you. I say lifelong because I don't want to give any false expectations of being able to become a wise person in the time it takes to read this book. It doesn't work like that. The advice I give, not only in this book, but in each of my other books, commentaries and audio series, and the biblical principles on which they are all based, have to be slowly *absorbed*.

Above all, they have to be *put into practice*, and not just for a few days, but over a long time, so that new habits can form and your whole mind can be '*transformed*', as it must be. Therefore, set out on what is bound to be a long journey and keep going. Aim to get as far as you can get before your journey is ended, either by death or the rapture. Also, seek for wisdom in the broadest possible sense, right across the board, even where that involves looking at topics which you have never previously considered important, or have never thought of at all, such as:

- a) God's judgment on your life, i.e. His assessment of the fruit your life produces
- b) the eternity that lies beyond that judgment
- c) Bible prophecy
- d) Israel and the Jews
- e) your job
- f) money
- g) political correctness
- h) Islam
- i) the errors of 'rights-based' thinking
- j) obtaining guidance and making good decisions
- k) the role demons play in our lives (see my Books 7 and 9)
- l) building a successful marriage
- m) the need to change, grow and be 'transformed' by the renewing of your mind
- n) the 'love of the truth'
- o) fearing God
- p) humbling yourself

I have also covered very many other points and issues not only in this book, but also in my other books, when discussing what wisdom consists of and what wise people do. However, I have listed the ones set out above because they would probably not be on most people's lists of what wisdom is about. Therefore, I suggest you broaden your definition to include all of the above, and more. Then seek to become wise, and to eliminate foolishness and naivety, in every conceivable area of your life.

To make the best possible use of this book, I suggest that you do not merely read it once and then put it away. Instead, read it through again, perhaps even repeatedly, because it contains a huge amount of detail and much of it is not what you might expect, as well as being contrary to current orthodoxy and political correctness. Thus it will be hard to absorb it quickly. Therefore, go through it again more slowly, a chapter at a time, and spend a week, or maybe a month, dwelling on that one chapter, pondering it and assessing yourself to see where you need to change.

For example, why not spend a whole month looking at the chapter on work? As you do that, think deeply about each of the main faults I have identified in the average worker. With each of these, ask God to reveal to you whether you have that fault and, if so, how. For Him to really answer you, and to open your eyes to your own faults and wrong attitudes it will take time, just on the issues covered in

that chapter, let alone all the others. Therefore, don't rush it. Dwell on that chapter for as long as it takes and meditate upon it until you extract the fullest possible value and see real change in yourself.

Then do the same concerning marriage, money, decision making, and so on. Do that until you have covered all of the book thoroughly, not just at 90 miles per hour as you 'whizz past' each chapter. In fact, to get the fullest possible benefit, get hold of my series of talks on biblical wisdom and listen to those on MP3. Then even more of this will sink in. By listening you will also be able to keep on addressing these issues at times when you cannot read, by using what I call 'second hand' time, while you are already busy driving, cooking, bathing, or walking the dog.

The benefit of listening in this way is enormous and far more information will sink in and be truly understood than if you only read it. It also makes it much easier for you to reflect on what you hear. If we were to try to put into a single phrase how we can most effectively seek to develop wisdom, we could not put it better than what King David said, as he was dying, to his son, Solomon, who was to be the next King. I used this quotation in the introduction, but it is so fundamental to the pursuit of wisdom, that I will use it again here to close this book:

*Now set your mind and heart to seek the LORD your God.....  
1 Chronicles 22:19(a) (ESV)*