

***“The end of a thing is better than  
its beginning” (Eccl. 7:8)***

*David Halbrook*

Is the end of a year better than the beginning of a year? God says it is. Since New Year’s Day, what thought have you given to 2014? It is good to make wise plans for 2015, but you can benefit MORE by seriously thinking about 2014.

If you are not a Christian, review 2014 and identify what hindered you from believing Jesus is God, repenting of sin, confessing Jesus as Lord, or being baptized into His death (Jn. 1:1; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10; 6:3). What was more important than the salvation God offered you all year long?

If you have doubts or questions about God, the Bible, or some specific subject, you aren’t the first. Jesus’ apostles did not always immediately understand what Jesus said or did, so they asked questions (Mt. 13:10, 36; 18:1, 21). We offer these articles each week so you know that we are interested in you. Can we help you find the answers Jesus has given to your questions? Don’t wait another year to seek the answer!

2014 holds many lessons waiting to be learned by people who see the value of “the end of a thing.” Do not repeat last year’s mistakes but seek and serve God today, and the end of 2015 will be better than its beginning!

Editor’s Note: Our article in *Arkansas Weekly* offers some simple, divine wisdom that, like last week’s article, teaches us *to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom*. (Ps. 90:12). Help someone this week to find these articles—doing so may help you as much as it does them.

**Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.**

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

With the beginning of a new year, some “work lists” are either empty or need to be confirmed (signboard, Lord’s Supper preparation). Check these lists to confirm when you have volunteered to help or when you are able to help in our work in these ways.

*Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*  
church of Christ--Quail Valley  
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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## *The Wisdom in God’s Word*

*Jarrold Jacobs*

By observing society, we can see that a familiarity with and a knowledge of the word of God is lacking in this world. Seeing that this is the case, man has a need for obtaining the wisdom of God found in His word. How can this be done? Is this even possible? I believe we can have access to the wisdom of God, but society at large has refused it. Why do I say this? Please read the verses listed below carefully and note what God's word can do, as well as its connection to wisdom and understanding.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11).

"I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word" (Psalm 119:16).

"Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart" (Psalm 119:34).

"Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed" (Psalm 119:80).

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts." (Ps. 119:97-100).

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psalm 119:130).

Based upon the passages above, we know God's wisdom is accessible to man through the written word. What are some applications we can make in our lives to the wisdom found in God's word?

*(continued inside)*

**Remember It.** David realized that the wisdom that God reveals needs to be remembered at all times (Ps. 119:11, 16). In fact, the first psalm shows that the righteous will gladly meditate on God's law at all times (Ps. 1:2). Remembering God's wisdom is not simply a mental exercise without application. In reality, it is remembering that can keep us from sin. Jesus showed us this when He was tempted by Satan and used Scripture to defeat him (Matt. 4:1-11; I Pet. 2:21-22).

**It Will Not Put Us To Shame.** David understood that when his heart was "sound" in God's statutes, he would not be put to shame! (Ps. 119:80). Do we understand this? Sadly, we find people today who are put to shame in life because they try to "muddle through" life without the wisdom found in God's word! In fact, when our hearts are "sound" (healthy, sincere, undefiled) with God's wisdom, there is no occasion for shame! We see a New Testament counterpart to Psalm 119:80 when we read II Timothy 2:15 and learn about the workman who "needeth not to be ashamed" when he handles the word of truth accurately! There are a lot of things that can put men to shame, but knowing God's word will not do it!

**Obey It.** Please notice that it is not enough simply to "know" God's word, but it is necessary to APPLY what we learn (Ps. 119:34; Rom. 10:16; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22:14; etc.). We need to "keep" and "observe" what we learn! Jesus taught this truth when He discussed the wise man that not only heard the word, but obeyed it as well (Matt. 7:21-27). What a tragedy it is to see people who know what to do to please God, but refuse to do it! (Is this you, dear one?) Let us determine to meditate, study, and obey what we learn in the wisdom found in God's word.

**It Makes Us Wiser Than The World.** Regardless of the wisdom the world may proclaim, the wisdom found in God's word makes us wiser than the world (Ps. 119:97-100). This should not be surprising, seeing that God's ways and thoughts are higher than man's (Isa. 55:8-9). God looks on the world's wisdom as foolishness that passes away (I Cor. 1:18-21; II Jn. 2:17). Let us take heed to God's word and thank Him for the access to the wisdom that will lead us from earth to Heaven!

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*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent."*

*Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. (1 Cor. 1:18-21)*

## *The Seed Principle*

*Jesse Flowers*

What is the seed principle? It simply means that seed will always produce after it's own kind. An apple seed will always produce an apple. A watermelon seed will always produce a watermelon, etc. From the very beginning, God created it to be this way.

"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:11-12).

This same seed principle also applies in the religious realm. In explaining the parable of the sower, Jesus said in Luke 8:11, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." The Word of God is compared to seed sown in the hearts of men. Some will receive it with a good and honest heart, many others will not (vv. 12-15).

The apostle Peter wrote: "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever" (I Peter 1:22-23).

Peter said that sinners are "born again" of incorruptible SEED, the word of God. When men obey the gospel of Christ they receive salvation (Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15-16). In the first century, whenever the gospel (seed) was preached and obeyed, it produced a Christian (Acts 11:26). In the 21st century, whenever the gospel (seed) is preached and obeyed, it will produce a Christian.

Here's the point. If I teach someone from the Book of Mormon and they accept that message, they will become a Mormon convert. If I teach someone the Roman Catholic Catechism and they accept its teachings, they will become a Roman Catholic. The Methodist Discipline will produce a Methodist. The Baptist Manual will produce a Baptist. Etc.

However, if we will simply teach someone the pure, unadulterated Word of God, it will produce a New Testament Christian every time (Gal. 1:6-9; I Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19). Nothing more, and nothing less. Why? Because of the seed principle. Seed only yields fruit according to its kind.