

# The Correspondent



## SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM & 2:00 PM

## WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM  
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM  
[www.collinsville-troycoc.org](http://www.collinsville-troycoc.org)  
(618) 667-6708

*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

Vol. 49 No. 21

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

May 23, 2021

## The Beginning of Wisdom -Renn Ferguson

Everyone has done it. The waiter at a restaurant brings out your food and says “Don’t touch the plate, its hot!” Then, as soon as they walk away we touch the plate to see if it is actually hot. This most often results in us burning our finger a little bit because we did not take the advice of the waiter. The knowledge was given to us. We knew that we would get hurt but did not put that knowledge into practice. My stepmother always told my brother and me “you’re only as mature as you choose to be.” Age does not signify maturity, neither does it signify wisdom. Miles Kington said, “knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.” We can have all the knowledge in the world but we do not put it into practice, our knowledge is worthless. This is especially true when it comes to the life of the Christian.

Solomon wrote in Proverbs 9:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is insight.” A knowledge of the Lord without a fear of Him is foolish. As Paul stated, “For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20). The world by itself is proof enough of a God. Some astrologers and others of the like recognize the irrefutable fact that there is a designer. The harmony that exists within our universe shows that there has to be a higher intelligence. There are many who have that knowledge but do not use it. We should all know that there is a God but we must not stop there. We must begin to search out who He is, what He has done, and what He requires of us. So many do not ask these questions concerning God. These people have a knowledge of God but they are foolish because they do not use that knowledge as they should.

Then, there are those who know there is a God, who do seek out what He wants but, upon learning what it is, they refuse to follow it. James gives us some wisdom regarding this. In chapter one we read, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (v. 22). As I said before, we can know everything there is to know about the scriptures but if we do not put that into practice we are just as foolish as anyone else. One example that I often think about is the rich young ruler. We do not have the space to discuss it in any great length but I do encourage you to read it when you are able. The record of this young man’s actions are found in Matthew 19:16-30. In the passage we see an example of someone who knows what needs to be done but does not do it. Unfortunately, many are in this same situation. Many have a knowledge of the requirements of God but lack the wisdom to keep His commandments.

It does not matter if we are children or adults, wisdom is a choice. God has given us all of the knowledge that we need. It is up to us to be wise and use that knowledge to be pleasing and acceptable to God. We must ask ourselves, are we wise? Or, do we simply have knowledge?