

WHO IS THE WISEST MAN ON EARTH?

TEXT: Proverbs 11:30b: *He that winneth souls is wise.*

If I should go up and down the streets asking “Who is the wisest man on earth?”, I would get a variety of answers.

The banker would reply, “*The man who, by his business sagacity and unusual industry, amasses a fortune.*”



The politician would tell me, “*The man who has studied economics and political problems and has succeeded in finding their solution for the good of the country, and who wins the confidence of his fellowmen and is elected to high office.*”

The military man would say something like this, “*The man who masters the science of war and has studied and amassed information of tactics and maneuvers until he can command great armies on the field of battle. The showing of his ability makes him become a captain, lieutenant, general, or field marshal.*”



The social sets’ answer would probably be, “*The man who gets the most pleasure by day and amusement by night is a wise man.*”

But when I look to God — my Maker — and ask, “*Who is the wisest man on earth?*”, from the Throne of eternal light and glory a most shocking answer is forthcoming: “***He that winneth souls is wise.***”

The man who makes soul winning the supreme business of life is the wisest man.

My purpose is to show you that every follower of Jesus Christ should make soul winning the business of his life. Here are some reasons.

First: [God commands us to do so.](#)

Matthew 28:19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus gives us our marching orders. If you are His church, you will do His will or will dry up and lose out. In the **Book of Acts**, you will see that every Christian in the early church considered the Great Commission as part of his work and was duty-bound to carry it out.

Acts 8:4: They were scattered abroad and went every where, preaching the Word.

These were not the apostles, but members of the rank and file of the Church of Jesus Christ. Excuse-making to avoid this Great Commission is living in disobedience to the Commanding Officer and does not fulfill the purpose of what a Christian really is. A Christian is a follower of Christ and will have the same purpose as Jesus.

Luke 14:23: Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled.



Then, the 26th verse caps it off:

Luke 14:26: If any man come to Me and hate not his father, mother, wife, children, brethren and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Second: [It is here Jesus touches on the heart of the failure to witness for Christ.](#)

What is this terrible barrier? Self-love. We think more of our safety than of the souls of the lost. It is the fear in self-love that makes us afraid someone will laugh at us and make fun of our words. We don't want ridicule and persecution, nor do we want to become entangled in questions we cannot answer. There is a simple solution to this last obstacle: Know the Word. We are told in:

Acts 8:4: Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the Word.



Another solution is to stay on the offensive. Give out what you know God has done for you, and refrain from defending the Bible. You do not have to defend a lion. Just let him loose and he will take care of himself. Give the Word and it will break the rock in pieces, for it is a hammer, a fire, and a sword.

Second: Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

Mark 1:17: And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after Me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

You cannot make yourself a soul-winner, but He will make you one. Notice that this wonderful Commission has a special privilege and blessing attached to the obedience of it. **“Lo I AM with you always.”** “

Matthew 28:20b: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus is saying **“I am with you if you go.”** Can this be the reason you do not feel the Holy Presence with you? God will not fill you with His Spirit just to sight yourself as some great one who has attained a great place in God.



Soul winning is the main purpose of the Lord filling us with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8: Ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me.

Third: Unto Jesus, and for His sake, you will be telling the Good News of Salvation through the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit will magnify Jesus through you until many will want to know Him.

The Samaritan woman in **John 4** had not been saved an hour before she became a soul winner and turned many to the Lord Jesus. The power of a changed life . . . becoming a new creature in Christ . . . being filled with the Spirit . . . is the most powerful force in the world. This blessing of the Baptism terminates only when we stop its flow to the lost and consume it upon ourselves.

John 4:28-29, 39:

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.



To feed the hungry, clothe the naked, house the poor, and instruct the ignorant are all blessed deeds of kindness. But the greatest privilege that rewards the greatest

labor is winning souls to Christ. Take these words to heart:

James 5:20: Let him know, that he that converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death.

Save a soul from death! Each soul is valuable — not just the educated, cultured, and refined; but the drunkard, murderer, harlot, outcast, uneducated, and the poor.



The most hideous, appalling enemy of mankind is death, and especially the second death which is worse than the first; for it is separation from God and Heaven and Christ, and from all that is holy, and good,



and to be cast alive into the Lake of Fire which burneth with brimstone.

Fourth: *The Scriptures say, "Save a soul!"* 'Save' is a wonderful word.

If you have ever been drowning, or have been lost in a pathless woods, it is wonderful to be saved by someone who cares. It is more wonderful to be saved from sin, a miserable life, and Hell by our Lord Jesus Christ. It is wonderful to be saved so thoroughly and completely within and without that we will give ourselves wholly to rescue the lost — those without Christ and without hope.

Today, in this miserably worldly age, many Christians have lost their power and testimony because they are so like the world and have compromised with it until they do not see sin as sin any more.

Hell is spoken of so flippantly by the sinner. Sins which the Bible condemns are so prevalent and commonly seen that they have lost their horribleness and deadliness to the lukewarm Christian.



These are the devil's foes trying to turn you aside from obedient service. These days are the same as the days of Noah, the same as the days of Lot in Sodom. God visited judgment with a terrible overthrow on those generations, and judgment is coming back today unless men and women repent. Only a few were saved in either case, and the Bible declares:

1 Peter 4:18: And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Can you, my brother and sister, answer this question?



We cannot win souls without a burden and passion for them. This comes only by living near to Jesus and being filled with the Spirit.

Lastly: The reward of the soul winner is worth talking about! Those who turn souls from their wicked ways to the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world “shall shine as the stars, forever and ever”.

Daniel 12:3: And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

The world may laugh at the shine on your face down here. They may say you have gone crazy over religion. They rely on paint and powders to cover up the sadness and emptiness of their countenance — but brother, we are going to shine for God forever and ever in the eternal city of New Jerusalem!



About 12 miles from Chicago is a suburb of Evanston. A large Methodist University is there. This was a church where people were on fire for God in the days long ago, as mighty a church force as the world has seen in turning men and women to righteousness and Heaven. Two young men were studying here for the ministry, and one of them was a famous swimmer.

One morning word reached the college that down on Lake Michigan, off the shores of Evanston, there was a wreck. It was the Lady Algin. Ed Spencer, the famous swimmer, along with his friend rushed down to the lake. Ed saved 17 lives from the ship. Again and again he plunged in to rescue precious lives. Then, he finally lay exhausted on the banks with the cry, “*Oh, that I had saved just one more!*”



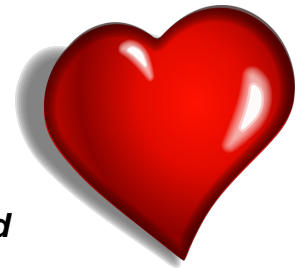
Children of God, will you sit calmly by while the unsaved are perishing all around us without Christ? This old world is wrecked. It is doomed by its sins. It is going down, down, down — into a dismal darkness of eternal night. Men and women are hopelessly lost. Let us plunge again and again — until we exhaust every ounce of strength.

There is only one way of salvation — so give them to Jesus, the One and Only. Be a life-saver in the power of the Holy Spirit. Swim out to them, for

they cannot come to you since the devil has them bound with fetters and chains of innumerable sins. Let us save them before this old world goes to final doom, for that day is fast approaching.

This work of soul winning is not done by the efforts of careless, indifferent church members who have no burden for lost souls.

Where does this zeal come from that will not shrink from any sacrifice, that it may conquer hearts for God? It comes from living in the Presence of Christ. His heartthrob will become ours, and His infinite compassion knows no privations nor degree of suffering.



2 Peter 3:9: The Lord is not slack concerning His Promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Jesus' pangs of suffering and agony on Calvary were for bearing our punishment for sin. The load was so great His heart strings snapped. He bowed His head and died — the Just for the unjust.

He was dead long before the others. The others had their legs broken, but when they came to Him, He was dead already. They pierced His side and water came out, signifying to all medical men that He died of a broken heart.

Child of God, can you live in the Presence of such love, and yet be so indifferent to the salvation of souls?

The next driving motive is the glowing fires that were lighted on the Day of Pentecost. Those who experienced the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit knew they MUST go, that they MUST speak the things that were seen and heard, declares Peter and John.

1 John 1:3: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

As glowing fires, they fervently bore witness to Jesus, their Saviour and King.

Have the fires been getting low upon the altar of your heart? Has the chill of worldliness cooled you off?



God has plenty of fire, but only the paths of surrender and consecration will stir you again. Pray until the Spirit of prayer comes, and it will fan passion into flame. Prayer renews and revives the soul. You will be driven to the Word to have something to give them — something you have been a partaker of, and know to be good.

We are living in a strange, ghostly day. Men and women are often grief crazed over the death of loved ones . . . but where are those who are grief stricken over lost souls?

Efforts are strenuous to find the lost child. Hundreds scour the hills and valleys. Rewards are offered. When the child is found, everyone rejoices.

Where are those who will still love souls more than bodies?

Luke 15:2-6: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.

3 And He [Jesus] spake this Parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

A woman on a veranda of a hotel at a summer resort in Switzerland sat gazing thru binoculars at the world's highest peak. As she looked she saw four specks over against the snow. Suddenly she dropped the glasses in a faint! Someone picked them up and looked to see two men tumbling down mountains of ice from a broken rope.



Life is a brittle thread — it may snap any time.

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