

“The Wickedness of Folly”

Sermon Notes

- **Our folly is a far greater problem than any of us realize - we are absolutely desperate for God’s wisdom**

Psalm 69:5; Proverbs 9:13-18; 14:1, 29; 18:13; 22:15

**Because of our indwelling sin...*

1. True wisdom is elusive (vv.19-29)

2. True wisdom became human (Matthew 12:42; Luke 2:40, 52; Romans 11:33; 1 Corinthians 1:18-30; Colossians 2:3; James 1:5-8; 3:17; Revelation 5:12)

For the Week of February 7th-13th

Proverbs 13:20 tells us: “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise”. David Powlison is such a man. Just about a year and a half ago, Powlison stepped into the presence of our Lord after succumbing to pancreatic cancer at age 69. Nevertheless, in the writings he left us, “though he died, he still speaks” (Hebrews 11:4). Take some slow time to read carefully through these 20 quotes from the writings of David Powlison.¹ Discuss them with your family, your community group, or both. There may be one or two (or more) of these that profoundly minister to you. Welcome it. Allow these truths to change you, and then bless others by sharing with them what you’ve learned (Proverbs 15:7).

1. “Change is moving in the right direction. It’s not about speed, distance, or perfection, but direction.”
2. “Pop theologies baptize the longings of sinful hearts: health and wealth, significance and security, self-esteem, power to get what you want. But the Holy Spirit is in the business of changing what you want.”
3. “Anxieties feel endless and infinite – but they’re finite and Specific.”
4. “What happens when you are obsessed with getting people to like you? You become flirtatious or artificial, a coward or a deceiver, a chameleon or a recluse.”
5. “God does not accept me just as I am; He loves me despite how I am. He loves me just as Jesus is; He loves me enough to devote my life to renewing me in the image of Jesus.”
6. “Pain disrupts normal. It’s supposed to disrupt normal. It’s supposed to make you feel a need for help. Psalm 28 is not a placid ‘quiet time.’ It’s noisy and needy. When you let life’s troubles get to you, it gets you to the only One who can help.”
7. “We don’t just need a perspective or a strategy. We need a Savior, right here, right now.”
8. “God works on us in the midst of trouble, because trouble catches our attention.”
9. “Nothing compares with scripture for making sense of the trouble and struggles of life. Wise counseling is in the church’s DNA.”
10. “The Bible teaches us that our “feel likes” are frequently desires of the flesh. Most of our “felt needs” are idolatrous desires. They are meant to be killed by the Spirit, not indulged. Such is the way of life, freedom, wisdom, and joy in Christ.”

¹ <https://jonathanhayashi.com/20-quotes-by-david-powlison-on-biblical-counseling/> . Accessed 2/5/21 @ 9:15am.

11. "The mind of man is a 'factory of idols.' We are infested with lusts. Listen closely to any person given to complaining, and you will observe the creativity of our cravings."
12. "You are sanctified by remembering and believing afresh that you are justified by what Jesus did on the cross for you."
13. "In the hands of a loving God, sorrow and suffering become the doorways into the greatest and most indestructible joys."
14. "Worriers act as if they might be able to control the uncontrollable. Central to worry is the illusion that we can control things... The illusion of control lurks inside your anxiety. Anxiety and control are two sides of one coin. When we can't control something, we worry about it."
15. "Wise counseling helps people face themselves honestly. It helps them look in the only true mirror: What does God see in me?"
16. "Scripture never separates motive and behavior. The mirror of Scripture exposes both. The lamp of Scripture guides both. The grace and power of Jesus Christ change both root and fruit."
17. "Learn to love others intelligently rather than demand their affirmation and adoration."
18. "There's something high and mighty about anger, when distilled to its basic elements. Anger goes wrong when you get godlike. Your desires become divine law. Poke your way into every example of bad anger, and you'll find god-playing."
19. "Don't ever degenerate into giving advice unconnected to the good news of Jesus crucified, alive, at work and returning."
20. "Christ-less, grace-less attempts at change conclude either with the praise of your own glory or with your shame."

*If you'd like to learn more about the life and work of David Powlison,
this tribute from Justin Taylor is outstanding:*

*<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/david-powlison-1949-2019/> . At the link,
you'll find further resources where you can learn more about this remarkable servant of Christ.*