

Series: Ephesians  
Title: Abounding Wisdom and Prudence  
Text: Ephesians 1: 8-9  
Date: March 22 & 24, 2013  
Place: Bible Class & SGBC, New Jersey

**Ephesians 1: 8: Wherein he hath ABOUNDED toward us in ALL WISDOM and PRUDENCE; 9: Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.**

**Subject:** Abounding Wisdom and Prudence

God's wisdom is his knowledge. God's prudence is his skillfulness in choosing how to carry out "his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."

Our text says, "**God hath ABOUNDED toward us in all WISDOM and PRUDENCE, HAVING MADE KNOWN THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL...**"

Do you know the mystery? The mystery of his will is the Gospel.

1 Corinthians 2: 7: But we SPEAK the WISDOM of God in a MYSTERY, even the HIDDEN WISDOM, which GOD ORDAINED BEFORE THE WORLD unto our glory:

The gospel is secret until God reveals it in our hearts. It is the hidden Wisdom, which God ordained before the world. The Wisdom ordained before is Christ in whom the Father blessed us with all spiritual blessings

Ephesians 1: 3: [God the Father] blessed us with all spiritual blessings IN CHRIST.

1 Peter 1:20: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

1 Corinthians 1: 24 unto them which are called, Christ the POWER of God, and the WISDOM of God.

Our text also says, "**God abounded toward us in WISDOM and PRUDENCE, according to his GOOD PLEASURE which he hath purposed in himself.**

**Proposition:** I want to show you 8 things revealed in the Scriptures that are the good pleasure of God. This is how God abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence, this is the will of God and this is the good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.

**I. (Col 1) FIRST, GOD ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE BECAUSE IT WAS THE FATHER'S WILL TO GIVE ALL PREMIENCE TO CHRIST HIS SON, FOR IT PLEASED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM SHOULD ALL FULNESS DWELL.**

**Colossians 1: 12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the**

**head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19: For IT PLEASSED THE FATHER that in him should all fulness dwell;**

The fullness of grace is in Christ. God blessed us with all spiritual blessings by giving all to his Son to give to us. Of his fullness the saints receive abundance of grace—"according to the riches of his grace, wherein he hath abounded toward us.": free justification, free righteous, free pardon, free adoption, free sanctification. All the graces implanted in the born again child by God the Holy Spirit, from God the Father are in Christ and from Christ. All light and life, wisdom and strength, peace and joy, and comfort come from Christ's fullness. All the promises of God are yea and Amen in him. So that our future glory is safe and secure in Christ.

Col 3:3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Before the foundation of the world, God abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence by leaving nothing about our salvation in our hands, but putting all spiritual blessings into the hands of his Son to distribute to his elect as he will.

**Illustration:** You don't trust riches to the hands of robbers!

God the Father spoke from heaven, saying of Christ, "Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased." (Mt 12: 18) So everything else we will see that was God's good pleasure, is all to this end, of bringing all glory to his Son. We will end where we began—in glory with Christ.

**II. (1 Sam) GOD ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE TO MAKE YOU HIS PEOPLE (1 Samuel 12:22; Eph 1: 3)**

**1 Samuel 12:22: For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.**

Ephesians 1: 3: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,...[our text says v9: "according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself."]

What a mystery of God's will! Before he created this world he chose us to spend eternity with him in the world to come. Before he hung the sun in the sky, he choose us in the Sun of Righteousness. Before he set the planets rotating on their course, he predestinated us to the adoption of sons, to be conformed to the image of his Son. Why? He saw nothing good in us. No. But in wisdom and prudence he chose us because we surely would have never chosen him. He did it "according to the good pleasure of his will, according to the riches of his grace, according to his good pleasure which he purposed in himself." (Eph 1: 5, 7, 9)

**III. (Is 53) HE ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE, BECAUSE HE WAS PLEASSED TO BRUISE HIS SON IN PLACE OF HIS PEOPLE.**

All that you and I contribute is sin. We broke the law in Adam. Our story is described in Ps 58: 3: The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. In our blindness some of us called our lies righteousneses. But truth is,

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousneses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

But it pleased God to send forth his Son to fulfill his law for his people.

Isaiah 42:21: The LORD is WELL PLEASED for HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE; HE WILL magnify the law, and make it honourable.

So when our Lord had fulfilled all the earthly work given him of the Father, he then went to the cross—TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THOSE GIVEN HIM.

**Isaiah 53: 9:...He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10: Yet it PLEASED THE LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief:**

Isaiah 53: 5: But HE was wounded FOR OUR our transgressions, HE was bruised FOR OUR iniquities: the chastisement of OUR peace was upon HIM; and with HIS stripes WE are healed.

Romans 8: 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Who but the God of all Wisdom and Prudence could design this glorious work wherein he is a Just God and a Savior!

**Illustration:** Substitute Teacher takes the place of another because the other is sick. The Substitute Teacher knows who they represent before they arrive. The Substitute does all the work.

Sinner, do you see that God is just and the Justifier because he chose the Substitute and he chose the people for whom he would die? But with Christ our Substitute, he does all the work then divides what he earned with those for whom he worked.

**IV. GOD ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE BECAUSE IT PLEASED GOD TO RAISE CHRIST FROM THE DEAD SO HE COULD FINISH ACCOMPLISHING THE FATHER'S GOOD PLEASURE OF DIVIDING THE SPOILS WITH THOSE HE REDEEMED.**

**Isaiah 53: 10:...he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand—in the hand of Christ Jesus...12: Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

It pleased the Father to raise his Son so that the rest of God's good pleasure shall PROSPER—flourish—in the hand of Christ. That is why the next verse,

Isaiah 54: 1: Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD. 2: Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; 3 For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited. 4: Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more. 5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

Remember those principalities and powers Christ made in the beginning of the world. Now Christ is raised.

Ephesians 1: 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

In all wisdom and prudence, God the Father raised Christ giving him the stewardship—the government, the administration—over all things to the church throughout this entire gospel dispensation, that Christ might fill ALL in ALL:

- Fill all the good pleasure of God's will
- Fill all his pulpits and his pews
- Fill all his elect with the Holy Spirit
- Fill all his body to completion with his people—the fullness of the stature of the body of Christ
- Thus filling the fullness of times

Brethren, rest assured, “The pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in Christ's hand—the God of the whole earth shall he be called.”

**V. (1 Cor 1) HE ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE, BECAUSE IT PLEASSED GOD TO USE THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL TO REVEAL THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL IN US.**

**1 Corinthians 1: 21: For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**

There are two reasons given why it pleased God to save through preaching.

First, by this means God our Savior is bringing the wise and prudent of this world to nothing.

1 Cor 1: 19: For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent...25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.... 27: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...to confound the things which are mighty; 28...to bring to nought things that are: 29: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

**Illustration:** Riches carried in a plain brown wrapper! By using things which are foolish and despised by the wise and prudent, God keeps the riches of his gospel hidden, while destroying the wise and prudent of this world.

Secondly, by using the gospel to call his children, we give Christ all the glory.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God....23: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24: But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Christ our Head is King with all power over providence to bring his gospel to each child. Christ our Head is the Prophet with all wisdom to teach his gospel through his preachers. Christ our Head is the High Priest

with all power to pray the Father to send the Spirit into their hearts to make us new. Christ our Head is the essential Word which he plants in our hearts making us one with him.

1 Corinthians 1:30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

**Illustration: Hearing Involves No Work:** all other senses except hearing require doing: to see you must look, to smell you must breathe, to taste you must open your mouth, to touch you must feel, but to hear you must do nothing. That is why the means of preaching is foolishness to them that perish—but why unto us who are called it is the power of God unto salvation.

## **VI. (Mt 11) GOD ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE, BECAUSE IT PLEASSED HIM TO HIDE THE MYSTERY FROM SOME AND REVEAL IT UNTO BABES.**

**Matthew 11: 25:** At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. **26: Even so Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight”** it is literally, “Yes, Father, because so it was good pleasure before thee.”

**Galatians 1: 15:** But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by his grace, **16: To reveal his Son in me,...**

Romans 9:18: Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will *have mercy*, and whom he will he hardeneth.

## **VII. (Eph 1) HE HAS ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE BECAUSE IT PLEASSED THE FATHER TO GATHER ALL TOGETHER IN CHRIST.**

**Ephesians 1: 8:** Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; **9:** Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: **10:** That in the dispensation [stewardship-administration] of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

When Christ has at last filled all in all, then shall God gather together all in him.

**Application:** So you see in all of these things which it pleased God to do, the chief end is to give Christ Jesus all Preeminence in the salvation of his elect. This is how he abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; this is the good pleasure which he purposed in himself; this is the mystery of his will he makes known in our hearts.

Colossians 1: 26: *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Eternally, the believer’s hope of glory is Christ in you—having come in the earth and accomplished redemption for us through his blood. Personally, our hope of glory is Christ in you—having been formed in our hearts whereby we trust we are complete in him. Collectively as his church our hope of glory is: Christ

our Head in our midst, with all power, over all, who shall accomplish the pleasure of the Lord by his hand through his gospel.

**VIII. AND WITHOUT A DOUBT, WE SHALL KNOW FULLY THE ABOUNDING WISDOM AND PRUDENCE OF GOD TOWARD US BECAUSE OUR HEAD SAYS TO US.**

**Luke 12: 32: Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

Then we shall be where we were from the beginning—in glory in Christ. What abounding wisdom and prudence God has shown toward us! The pleasure of the LORD has, is and shall flourish in his hand!

Amen!