



THE WISDOM OF WANTING WISDOM by Lance Sawyer

At age twenty, King Solomon was promoted to a position that called for a level of maturity he knew he did not possess. Of course, the mere recognition of his immaturity demonstrated that young Solomon already possessed unusually good judgment. “I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in” (1 Kings 3:7b). It takes a certain amount of wisdom to recognize our deficiency and humbly seek after a supplement.

God obviously appreciated Solomon’s request for wisdom. “It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.” So God not only granted the wisdom Solomon asked for, he threw in the riches and fame Solomon did not ask for. Here is an Old Testament example of a New Testament principle. “Strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well” (Luke 12:31). These other “things” were more than just a reward for requesting wisdom. They resulted from the wisdom Solomon received. They grew out of the wise decisions he made early in his reign. Solomon structured and administrated his kingdom in a manner that naturally produced financial and political success.

Solomon’s objective was to be the best possible leader of God’s people. He essentially asked for a gift that would benefit others. Solomon’s objective was not so much to become a great king, but rather, to become a great servant. In the process of pursuing this objective, he became both. Solomon is most famous for his material prosperity. But his religious accomplishments were even farther reaching and longer lasting. The moral failures of his later life do not negate the significance of his spiritual successes in early life. Solomon’s temple became the nucleus around which Judaism was to develop. The sacred writings associated with Solomon are at the center of Old Testament wisdom literature.

Solomon was challenged to live and govern by scriptures that had been passed down to him from another time. They were ancient words even in his day—words from a world long gone. The Law of Moses had been given to people living in a completely different cultural, economic, and political situation. These people were Solomon’s ancestors, but their lives had little in common with his. The world had changed. The descendants of Abraham were now living in the land God had promised to Abraham in Genesis, but there was little there that Abraham would have recognized. Entire social groups had come and gone. National boundaries had changed. Cities had been rebuilt, destroyed, and rebuilt again.

How was Solomon to take a revelation given to his ancestors in one world and apply it to the people living in his world? It was hard work for Solomon, and it is hard work for us. But it is just the kind of work God wants to help us with because it is God’s work. When we sincerely ask for spiritual discernment we are actually asking for a wisdom that will benefit others.

Give me an understanding heart. That is the kind of prayer God delights to answer. That is the kind of motive God can work through. That is the kind of person Solomon was, and God was ready and willing to work through him. The fame and fortune God bestowed on Solomon was an indication that God wanted him to do well. It seemed that the better Solomon did the more God was glorified. For example, 1 Kings 10:9 says that when the

Wisdom continued next page...

Deadline for the *Journey* is **Thursday, August 19**, at Noon. Email to: publisher@fcc-hsv.org

3209 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Telephone: 256-881-0150 **Leave a message.**

...**Wisdom** continued.

Queen of Sheba beheld Solomon's wisdom and wealth she went away praising the God of Israel. The writers of both Kings and Chronicles presented Solomon's fame and fortune as a glorious testimony to the faithfulness of God in keeping God's promises. A similar theme emerges early in the story of Abraham. God's original promise was "I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 12:2-3). The blessings of God (both spiritual and material) are given to us that they might be passed onto others through us.

We are wise to remember this principle when we pray. James teaches us that selfish prayers are largely ineffective. Moreover, our prayers reveal our priorities. We naturally pray for the things that are most important to us. Solomon's prayer for wisdom demonstrated that God's priorities were his priorities. God wanted a wise leader to guide his people. And more than anything else in the world, Solomon wanted to be that wise leader. Leaders like Solomon make great kings and great ministers because they are great servants. The desire for wisdom is the first step toward greatness. May God grant us the wisdom to want most what his people need most.

HYGIENE ITEMS FOR MORRIS ELEMENTARY

Hygiene items for Morris Elementary is the designated school project during August for Community Outreach. Morris is a pre K - 8th grade school with many students and various needs. Miss Kristie, nurse, at the school stated: the needs vary from underwear for those accidents with the younger children to sanitary items for the older students. There are always additional needs for soap, shampoo, etc. Since storage space is limited and the needs vary from year to year, this will be a monetary event only. Please, no product donations to the church. The church will submit a check to the school admin for hygiene needs and Miss Kristie will be able to purchase her most urgent needs from this fund. Make your check to First Christian and write in the item line: CO - Morris school.

Thank you for your support.



SHORT TERM PRAYER CONCERNS



Not Published Online

We are temporarily publishing, as space allows, the prayer concerns that are normally listed in the Sunday bulletins. **Concerns are listed for one month unless we receive an update.** Long term prayer concerns are published monthly in the *Journey*. Send requests to publisher@fcc-hsv.org or call the church office at 256-881-0150 to leave a message. **Please notify the Pastors or the church office if you are going to the hospital and would like to be contacted**

REGIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Cottondale Christian Church, Cottondale, AL

OPEN DATES FOR FOOD BASKETS

September 19

October 17

November 14

December 5 & 26

THIS WEEK'S FOOD BASKET is in honor of Annie Jo Wood's 91st birthday by her son Randy Wood.



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning in September

What: The Book of Romans

Materials Needed: A Bible and our text [Invitation to Romans](#) by Pamela M. Eisenbaum . The text can be found on Amazon at a cost of \$9.59. Following is the web link: www.amazon.com/Invitation-Romans-Participant-Short-Term-DISCIPLE-ebook/dp/B00XPZ1B21

When: We will meet on 9/9/2021 at 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and each Thursday thereafter.

How Long: Eight (8) weeks.

Where: Family Services room.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact Lisa Fitzgerald

THIS WEEK

The following are the known church related activities.

- August 16 10:30 am Quilters
- August 18 6 pm Men's Group
7 pm Choir Rehearsal
- August 21 (Cancelled) Carolyn Brown's 90th Birthday Party



FCC Fall Chancel Choir Retreat

Fun, Fellowship, & Singing!

Fri., Sept 10, 5:30 - 8
Sat., Sept. 11, 10 - 1
FCC Choir Room

Lineup:
Christmas Music
Devotionals
Games & Food!

Contact Lauren Wilson Carter,
Director of Music, for Details

I AM SUFFERING; HEAR ME ROAR

by Vicki Kemper

"I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to argue my case with God. As for you, you white-wash with lies; all of you are worthless physicians. If you would only keep silent, that would be your wisdom!" - Job 13:3-5 (NRSV)

It's not often that we find a lifetime's worth of lessons packed into three short verses of scripture, so here's the story:

Job's life has fallen to pieces. In short order, this righteous man has lost to natural disasters (read: "acts of God") all his livestock and servants, his seven sons, and his three daughters. He is devastated, but he remains faithful.

Then Job gets sick, in the most miserable way. Still, he refuses to curse God.

Enter Job's so-called friends. In an effort to "comfort" Job, they offer variations on a theme of false, soul-crushing theology: (a) everything happens for a reason, (b) everyone gets what they deserve, (c) you must be a bad person, and (d) God is punishing you.

To which Job replies: "Stop torturing me with lies! Stop talking! I'm broken, and I'm going to give God a piece of my mind." And so he does—giving the rest of us a master class in suffering and consolation.

Lesson One: The best way to comfort someone is with your presence. If you really must speak, say, "I'm so sorry this is happening to you."

Two: When life gives you lemons, take it up with the One who created them. You honor God and help yourself when you express your anger and anguish, your disappointment, doubt, and fear.

Three: Bad things happen to good people, and it's neither God's doing nor your fault.

Prayer

Even as I shake my fist at you, Holy One, enfold me in your heart.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Service: 61

Small Groups: 22

COVID-19 CHURCH PROTOCOLS

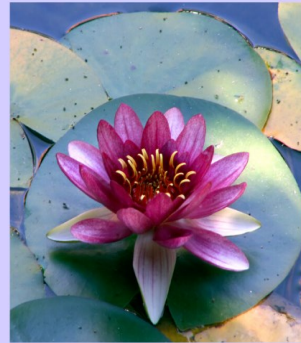
(Approved by the Board on August 12.)

- **One 9:30 a.m. service** will be offered at least through May 2022. First Christian Church offers virtual services (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw) every Sunday. While FCC and State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level.
- **Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors.** The doors by the church office are locked.
- **Wearing face coverings/masks at all times inside the church is encouraged for everyone.**
- Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the Lobby Welcome Table along with prepackaged communion elements.
- The **nursery** is open for the 9:30 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. small group time.
- **Every other row of pews is roped off on the pulpit side of the sanctuary to allow individuals to practice social distancing so that they may worship at their level of comfort. The front section on the pulpit side is the least impacted zone with our heating and cooling system.**
- **Attendees may vocalize** during the service, such as stating the Lord's Prayer, litanies, etc., and sing hymns/songs when lyrics are projected on the screens.
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services remain suspended until further notice.
- **Small groups** (including Sunday school classes) will meet at **8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.**
- Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.
- Please notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.

IN PERSON & ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

We offer in-person worship services Sunday mornings at 9:30 or you may also stream them live at 9:30, or watch previous services anytime, on facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or youtube.com/channel/UCzQCRY8Vfa-IDhugUnUhCKw

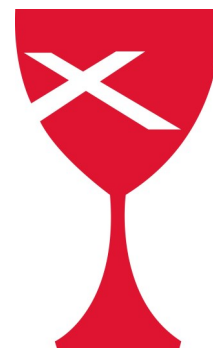
The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center



I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13

We are available for telephone or video conference counseling sessions. Call our office today to schedule your session.

256-270-7399





SUNDAY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS (Approved by the Board on July 8)

- **One 9:30 a.m. service** will be offered at least through May 2022. First Christian Church offers virtual services (facebook.com/fcchsv, twitch.tv/fcchsv, or First Christian Church Huntsville on YouTube) every Sunday. While FCC and State recommendations are good benchmarks, we invite all people to worship with us based on their comfort level.
- **Enter the church through the Bell Tower Garden/Narthex doors.** The doors by the church office are locked.
- **Fully vaccinated individuals may choose to attend with or without masks.**
- **Attendees who are not fully vaccinated, and children who are able, will continue to wear face coverings/masks inside the church until further notice.**
- Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the Lobby Welcome Table along with prepackaged communion elements.
- The **nursery** is open for the 9:30 a.m. service and the 10:30 a.m. small group time.
- A section of pews located in the front of the sanctuary, on the choir side, has every other row of pews roped off to allow individuals to practice social distancing so that they may worship at their level of comfort.
- **Members may vocalize** during the service, such as stating the Lord's Prayer, litanies, etc., and sing hymns/songs when lyrics are projected on the screens.
- Offerings may be placed in the brass plate when exiting the sanctuary or sent by mail.
- Food, coffee, and other hospitality services remain suspended until further notice.
- **Small groups** (including Sunday school classes) will meet at **8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.** A list of groups is available at the welcome table as you enter the church.
- Anyone with any symptoms will remain home and celebrate virtually for at least 14 days.
- Please notify the church office immediately if you develop symptoms after attending a service.