

This year for Christmas
I hope I get _____.

“O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go.”

The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

Proverbs 4:7

Colossians 2:1-23

Three Warnings

A Central Encouragement

¹ For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ² that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

Wisdom is about reality, not rhetoric

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Wisdom is about reality, not rhetoric

⁹ “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.”

Wisdom is about reality, not rhetoric

¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Wisdom is in the substance of God,
not the shadow of God

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

Wisdom is in the substance of God,
not the shadow of God

¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but
the substance belongs to Christ.

Wisdom is in the substance of God,
not the shadow of God

“For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near...He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb. 10:1, 9-10)

Wisdom produces actual growth, not apparent growth

¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Wisdom produces actual growth,
not apparent growth

²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Wisdom produces actual growth,
not apparent growth

²...Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures
of wisdom and knowledge.

Wisdom produces actual growth,
not apparent growth

¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

Central Encouragement

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.