



CHRIST, OUR WISDOM

Scripture for Meditation: *Proverbs 2:1-5*

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

English Standard Version.
© 2001 by Crossway Bibles.
Used by permission.

Hymn of Revelation: *God, in the Gospel of His Son*

God, in the Gospel of His Son,
Makes His eternal counsels known;
Where love in all its glory shines,
And truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Here sinners of a humble frame
May taste His grace, and learn His Name;
May read, in characters of blood,
The wisdom, power, and grace of God.

The prisoner here may break his chains;
The weary rest from all his pains;
The captive feel his bondage cease;
The mourner find the way of peace.

O grant us grace, Almighty Lord,
To read and mark Thy holy Word;
Its truths with meekness to receive,
And by its holy precepts live.

Benjamin Beddome, 1717-1795
Alt. by Thomas Cotterill, 1779-1823; mod.

Hymn of Petition: *Be Thou My Vision*

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart—
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise—
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart—
High King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Attributed to Dallan Forgaill, 8th Century
Translated from ancient Irish to English by Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931
Versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.

Prayer of Blessing

Scripture for Responsive Reading: *James 1:5-8; 3:13-18*

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. . . . Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth.

This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

English Standard Version.
© 2001 by Crossway Bibles.
Used by permission.

Prayer of Corporate Confession

Silence for Personal Confession

Scripture for Assurance of Pardon: *1 Corinthians 1:30b-31*

You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

English Standard Version.
© 2001 by Crossway Bibles.
Used by permission.

Hymn of Boasting: *How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He would give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure;
How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,
My guilt upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom,
But I will boast in Jesus Christ—
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend. © 1995 Kingsway's Thankyou Music.
Used by permission. CCLI #2783020

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offertory Hymn of Praise: *King of the Ages*

Refrain:
King of the Ages, Almighty God,
Perfect love, ever just and true,
Who will not fear You and bring You praise?
All the nations will come to You.

Your ways of love have won my heart,
And brought me joy unending;
Your saving power at work in me,
Bringing peace and the hope of glory.

Your arms of love are reaching out
To every soul that seeks You.
Your light will shine in all the earth,
Bringing grace and a great salvation.



