

# Romans 16:27

*God is All Wise*

## Open your Bible to...

Rom. 16:27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!  
Amen.

## Pray

## Intro

✓ Omnisapience

This morning, we want to consider one of the lesser-known attributes of God, that is, His Omnisapience!

Omnisapience is the theological word that describes God as being infinitely wise.

That is to say, God has all wisdom!

It's important to note that wisdom is not the same as knowledge.

In a previous study we looked at the attribute of God's omniscience, which means He knows everything.

But wisdom is different and can best be defined as the proper application knowledge.

Ex. Knowledge vs. wisdom

Knowledge tells us that a tomato is a fruit; wisdom tells us that you don't put tomatoes in a fruit salad!

Or you might better understand the difference between knowledge and wisdom by this example...

If your wife asks you...

*“Does this dress make me look fat”*

Knowledge may tell you that in fact it does make her look fat!

Wisdom is to tell your wife...

*“Honey, that dress doesn’t show off just how beautiful you really are!”*

The point here is that you and I know people who have great storehouses of knowledge in their brain...

But not an ounce of wisdom!

God, however, has both all knowledge and all wisdom and is thereby able with His infinite wisdom to use His perfect knowledge to...

Always choose the best means to accomplish the best ends.

We see God’s wisdom on display in Paul’s famous words in Romans 8, where he writes...

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

That is, God with perfect wisdom is able to make even bad situations work out to produce good in our lives.

Ex. Peter's failure

So, in our continuing study of God we want to consider His Omnisapience and the implications, blessings and benefits that we experience because God is infinitely wise!

## The Biblical Foundation for God's Omnisapience

√ Biblical foundation

Like all good Bereans I know that you are eager to receive the Word of God this morning...

But will check the Bible to make sure that what I'm telling you is true!

So, in addition to our opening text from Romans 16 let's look at a few of the verses that tells us that God is infinitely wise. We begin with Job, who didn't get everything right but did correctly acknowledge God's wisdom when he said...

*"To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are His."*

*Job 12:13 NIV*

Paul adds to Job's testimony telling us that...

*"Christ (is) the power of God and the wisdom of God."*

*1Corinthians 1:24*

That is, Jesus is the personification of God's wisdom!

We can literally look at Jesus' life, how He conducted Himself, how He interacted with people, how He spoke, and how He lived out His life...

...and know what perfect godly wisdom looks like in a person's life.

Ap. If you want to live a life of godly wisdom...

Just follow Jesus' example!

Then to the church at Rome, Paul wrote...

*"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!"*

*Romans 11:33*

Notice that the apostle makes a distinction between God's wisdom and His power...

They are separate and unique attributes of God.

And finally, when God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream (by a *word of knowledge*) and its interpretation (by a *word of wisdom*) to Daniel, he said...

*"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
for wisdom and might are His."*

*Daniel 2:20*

So, we conclude that we're on solid biblical ground when we say that God is infinitely wise.

# The Implications of God's Omnisapience

## ✓ Implications

There are a number of awesome inferences that we can draw from God's Omnisapience, including, but certainly not limited to the following three implications.

- 1) Because God has all wisdom, He was able to put in place a plan to save us before we needed to be saved!

Think about it...

Because God is Omniscient (He knows everything) God knew that Adam would sin even before Man was created.

Because God is Omnisapient (He has perfect wisdom) God was able to choose the best means to save us from the sin we had not yet committed.

Because God is Omnibenevolent (God is Love) He planned to send His only beloved Son to save us from the penalty for the sins we had not yet committed.

Because God is Omnipotent (He has all-power) He had the strength to gain victory over sin and death through the resurrection of Christ from the dead before Jesus even put on human flesh to pay for the sins we had not yet committed!

That's exactly how the Bible describes God's eternal infinite wisdom to provide the salvation we needed before we had even sinned! Listen to how John describes Jesus in Revelation 13:8...

*"the Lamb (was) slain from the foundation of the world."*

That is, before Man was even created, or God had spoken the worlds into existence, God already had a plan in place to save us...

A perfect plan that sprung from His infinite wisdom, was implemented by His perfect love, and accomplished by His unlimited power!

What a comfort to know that God wasn't surprised by Adam's sin, nor is He making it up as history unfolds...

...but rather because God in His perfect and infinite wisdom was able to put in place a plan to redeem us and His creation from the foundation of the world!

2) God is the source of all wisdom

Because God has all wisdom it follows that He is the source of all wisdom and that any wisdom we have is a gift from Him. Listen to how Daniel puts it...

*"He gives wisdom to the wise  
And knowledge to those who have understanding."*  
*Daniel 2:20-21*

Solomon agrees writing...

*"For the Lord gives wisdom;  
From His mouth come knowledge and  
understanding."*  
*Proverbs 2:6*

And the Lord Himself acknowledged that He is the source of all wisdom when He asked Job rhetorically...

*“Who has put wisdom in the mind?  
Or who has given understanding to the heart?”  
Job 38:36*

The answer—the infinitely wise God Who is the sources of all wisdom is the One who puts wisdom into the minds of human beings.

√ All wisdom?

Some might argue that wisdom can be gained by experience, and that is certainly true.

However, I would counter that God is the One who provides us the experiences in life by which we gain wisdom.

For example, think about the disciples...

For the most part when Jesus called them, they were simple uneducated men (ref. Acts 4:13), who knew very little about theology, preaching, teaching and miracles.

But listen to what Jesus said to Peter, Andrew, James and John when He found them casting their nets into the sea of Galilee...

*“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”  
Matthew 4:19*

Notice that Jesus said...

*“I will make you fishers of men.”*

From that moment on they were enrolled in what I like to call, “*The Kings School of Ministry*”, where the boys learned how to become fishers of men by watching Jesus...

And through personal experience as Jesus gave them opportunity to do ministry.

Remember how the feeding of the 5,000 began? The disciples took the problem of a hungry multitude to Jesus and He turned it around and said to them...

*“You give them something to eat.”*

Their response...

*“We have here only five loaves and two fish.”*

Then Jesus showed them how to handle the problem and made them a part of the solution by letting them distribute the bread and the fish that He multiplied to the hungry multitude!

Thus they learned to do ministry by watching Jesus and then doing what He told them to do that they might by personal experience gain the wisdom required to do the ministry.

Ap. God doesn’t call the equipped, He equips the called

Ask God to give you the wisdom you require to do His will and more often than not He will provide you with the experience needed to gain that wisdom...

...whether it is in ministry, a professional career, or a trade, God can open the door of experience for you to gain the wisdom you need to become proficient in your calling.

3) Because God has all-wisdom, He is able to overrule all opposition without compromise



Specifically, God never lowers Himself to use pragmatic means to accomplish His holy purpose and plans. For those who don't know, pragmatism is that ideology that claims...

*"The ends justify the means"*

In other words, pragmatism says, it doesn't matter how you do what you do as long as it brings about the desired results.

So, the pragmatist is quite willing to lie, cheat, steal and even kill, so long as it brings about the desired "good" result they are seeking.

This ideology is practiced by most people, and even some Christians but something that God would never do, nor something He would encourage us to do!

Ex. 2Chron. 16 ~ when King Asa hired the Syrians using the treasure in God's Temple...

...it worked, but God rebuked Asa for his faithlessness and his ungodly methodology.

Rather by His great wisdom God is able to work around the schemes of men and the strategy of the Devil to accomplish His plans...

Without ever compromising His holiness, aligning Himself with the wicked, or resorting to evil behavior.

For example, when the Devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness he offered Him the kingdoms of the world, the very world that Jesus had come to redeem...but there was catch! Satan whispered to Jesus...

*"I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me." ~ vs. 9*

That is, Satan was offering Jesus a short cut, a pragmatic way around the horrific and brutal death waiting for Him at the Cross.

All the Lord had to do was compromise just a little bit, one bow of the knee in a place where no one would even see it and Satan would surrender the whole world to Him.

While we can sit here comfortably and think to ourselves, “*well of course Jesus wouldn’t fall for that temptation*”, we can’t begin to understand how great the pull of the Devil’s seduction was upon the Lord’s heart.

For Jesus knew what waited for Him at Calvary...

The brutality of the Roman lictors.

The shame of being spit upon by the very people He created.

The humiliation of the mocking crowds.

The physical pain of every lash of the scourge, the blunt nails pounded into his flesh and bones, and the slow torturous suffocation on the Cross.

The spiritual pain and awful anticipation of taking upon Himself all of the wrath of God for every sinful deed, word and thought that anyone, anywhere, would ever commit.

And perhaps most terrifying of all the fearful apprehension of being separated from His Father—the fate of all who reject Christ.

Thus, we read that Jesus prayed the night before the brutality that awaited Him...

*“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”*

*Matthew 26:39*

But God, and God the Son, never sinks to the compromises that pragmatism demands because God has all wisdom and therefore will always choose righteous means to accomplish His purposes.

Just as Jesus rejected Satan’s temptation because He knew that evil and compromised means would never justify the ends.

Because He knew that if He took the short-cut that the Devil offered, He would have gained the world but lost her citizens...

...for Satan’s pragmatic path led to a throne rather than the Cross, but without the Cross there would be no redeemed citizens to inhabit His Kingdom!

So, Jesus chose the hard road rather than the pragmatic shortcut offered by Satan so that He could save us...

...and now He waits in Heaven for the Father’s command to return to the earth to take back the Kingdoms of the world that Satan once offered Him in the desolate wilderness of Judea.

Ap. Don’t fall prey to the seduction of pragmatism

How we do what we do matters.

If the means are evil, or require us to compromise our faith, then we ought to reject that path because evil means will never justify the ends even if the end result seems good.

If you're faced with a difficult situation for which you can see no good and righteous way forward...

...ask the God of all wisdom for the righteous path and He will show you the way.

## Objections to God's Omnisapience

### ✓ Objections

There are a number of objections raised by unbelievers to the infinite wisdom of God but the best and most oft raised is the presence of evil in the world. The argument goes something like this...

*If* an all-wise and all-powerful God actually exists, then He would have made the best possible world.

However, the presence of evil in the world is evidence that this is not the best possible world.

Hence, an all-wise and all-powerful God doesn't exist.

This is a good and powerful argument and one we can't ignore because it hinders unbelievers from receiving Christ and has stumbled many young Christians who have abandoned their faith because they don't have a good response.

So, how do we respond to this argument?

### ✓ Response

Saint Augustine and modern theologians have developed some sophisticated arguments to address the presence of evil in the world, which you may want to investigate.

However, I'm a simple man so I need a simple response!

Here's how I respond.

The Bible informs us that God did in fact originally make the best of all possible worlds—a world without evil (ref. Gen. 1-2).

Into that world He lovingly placed the first people.

People who were created in His image, which included giving them freedom of choice (for without the freedom to choose there can be no authentic love for forced love is a contradiction).

Those people, and people ever since, have used that God given freedom to choose evil.

So, the presence of evil in the world is not evidence against God's existence, His power, and His infinite wisdom...

...it is evidence of Man's rebellion against God.

√ Why doesn't God put an end to evil

That response doesn't usually satisfy the skeptic, who will typically follow up with this question...

*"If that's true then why doesn't God put an end to evil?"*

A great question, and one for which the Bible provides a response in 2Peter 3:9...

*"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise (to put an end to evil), as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*

Peter's point is that the all-powerful and all-wise God will one day put an end to evil and usher in the best of all possible worlds—a world yet to come...

But He hasn't done so yet because in His infinite wisdom He knows the exact right moment to bring an end to Man's rebellion.

That exact right moment will be when every person that God in His perfect knowledge knows will receive the gift of salvation and eternal life has done so.

So, while we despise the evil that we see in the world today we endure and fight against that evil confident that one day God will bring an end to all this wickedness because an...

An all-knowing God knows how to bring an end to all evil.

An all-wise God is infallible in His ability to choose the best means to bring about the end of all evil while saving the most people.

An all-loving God has provided the means to deliver people from evil.

An all-powerful God has the unlimited strength to bring about an end of evil and to establish the best of all worlds.

That is exactly what the Bible declares throughout the Old and New Testaments and the world that the apostle John describes in the last 19 chapters of the Revelation!

## **The Blessings & Benefits of God's Omnisapience**

✓ Blessings & Benefits of God's Omnisapience

As in all of our studies of God we don't want to walk away with just head knowledge.

Rather we want to leave the sanctuary with some practical understanding of how God's wisdom is a benefit and a blessing to us in our daily experience.

When it comes to God's wisdom there are a ton of practical blessings and benefits including these three.

- 1) We don't have to learn everything the hard way!

Most people gain wisdom through experience. That is, we often learn the best way of doing something by first doing it the wrong way!

Then after many failed attempts, we gain wisdom as to how to do it correctly.

We call that the “*school of hard knocks*”, and frankly the tuition for that kind of education is high and often painful!

One author observed...

*“Mistakes are the steppingstones to wisdom. We learn from trial & error; we become wise by understanding problems.” ~ Leon Brown*

- Ex. Thomas Edison ~ over a thousand failed attempts to create a light bulb before he got it right

But what if we could gain wisdom without all the pain and frustration of doing things the wrong way before learning how to do life right?

Welcome to the School of God's Wisdom—the Bible in which Peter tells us that God...

*“...has given to us all things  
that pertain to life and godliness, through the  
knowledge of Him...” ~ 2Peter 1:3*

That is, God has provided all the wisdom we need to do life well, and joyfully, in His Word. For example, listen to how the Proverbs begin...

*“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of  
Israel: to know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the  
words of understanding...(so that), whoever listens to  
me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of  
evil” ~ Proverbs 1:1-2, 33*

The point is that the omnisapient (all-wise) God has provided all the wisdom that we need to navigate life so that we might consistently choose the best means to experience the best quality of life possible...

...rather than having to learn everything the hard way!

Ap. Encouragement to read and study His Word so as to gain the wisdom needed to navigate life

Pick up a copy of Our Daily Bread and faithfully read the daily devotion and Bible reading plan.

Ap. Check out our website

Our pastor just finished a series titled, “Timeless Wisdom: Gleanings from the Book of Proverbs.”

Listen to the studies, take notes, and do what God’s word says.



- 2) God gives wisdom to anyone who asks for it

You might be thinking...

*“Didn’t you just cover this and tell us that the wisdom we need in life is found in the Bible?”*

True, however, there are many decisions in life where we need God’s wisdom but there isn’t a chapter and verse to tell us what to do!

- Ex. The Bible tells us that marriage is a blessing, and the type of person we should look for, but it doesn’t tell us who to marry!

That’s when we need God’s specific wisdom for our unique situation. Wisdom that God will give to anyone who would ask for it. One prominent Bible teacher said it this way...

*“If you lack knowledge, go to school.  
If you lack wisdom, get on your knees!”  
Vance Havner*

His point was that the all-wise God has made His wisdom available to anyone who would sincerely ask for it. For example, in the epistle of James, we have this invitation...

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” ~ James 1:5*

So, when it comes to choosing a career, or wondering if this is the person that you’re supposed to marry, or a hundred other questions in which we need divine direction...

...the God who has perfect and infinite wisdom has made His omnisapient counsel available to you just for the asking!

Ap. Be sure to wait for His answer!

You'll notice in James 1:5 that God promises to provide us with wisdom, however, He doesn't tell us when He will give it!

So, wait on the Lord until you've heard from Him so that you don't choose poorly.

Ex. Prophetic word from brother Watson

I had three questions—should I take the job in Texas, is Cindy the one I'm supposed to marry, and if so, when?

While God won't always answer you with a prophetic word you can be sure that He will answer by whatever means He deems best because He has promised to do so.

So, wait for His wisdom.

3) Because God possess all wisdom, He never makes a mistake

What a comfort to know that when we're walking in God's will that we can be confident that no matter what is going on in our life...

Whether we have peace and prosperity, or trial and tribulation, it isn't a mistake or an accident, rather, it is God's wisely chosen path to make us more like Christ and to accomplish His purposes in and through our lives.

As we read Romans 8:28 we can be confident that under God's wise care that He is always working good into our lives.

Ex. God's wise choice for Joseph

If you know anything about the life of Joseph, you know that he endured many difficult trials before he was promoted to a place of great power and authority.

Sold by his own brothers in slavery.  
Falsely accused of rape.  
Unjustly imprisoned.  
Forgotten by those he helped.

Yet all of his life was carefully planned by God's perfect wisdom to produce the character and humility that Joseph would need when he was exalted to a place of power and authority.

To be in the right place at the right time to save not only a nation from starvation, but also to provide for his family including the brothers that sold him into slavery!

And, the wisdom not to use his God-given position, power and authority against his brothers after their father Jacob died.

Rather, Joseph recognized that in God's wisdom He was able to turn the evil intentions of his brothers into something good in Joseph's life...

...to be able to care for his family—who would become the people of Israel.

Listen to the wisdom that God gave to Joseph as he looked back on all of the trials and tribulations that came about because of his brothers evil deeds...

*“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” ~ Genesis 50:20*

For you and me this morning let's start this new week with the recognition that the Omnisapience of God isn't some stuffy theological truth reserved for academics, rather it is one more marvelous aspect of God's inscrutable nature...

...that is accessible to all of us just for the asking!

## **Close**

✓ God is All-Wise

For the majority here this morning I would guess that like me you will embrace God's Omnisapience and take advantage of the wisdom that He has made available to us.

However, there may be some who are yet unconvinced, or may even outright reject the reality that an all-wise God exists and that He has made His wisdom available to you.

Can I encourage you to reconsider your position?

Because to reject God's wisdom will always bring hurt and harm into your life.

Ex. Jerusalem's fall

God spoke wisdom through His servant Jeremiah the prophet to encourage His people to surrender to the king of Babylon so that they might save their lives.

But many people rejected God's wisdom and listened instead to the false prophets who lied.

So, they rejected God's wisdom and held onto the vain hope that the Babylonians would never breach the walls of the city.

But God warned them through Jeremiah (8:9) that...

*“The wise men are ashamed,  
They are dismayed and taken.  
Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord;  
So what wisdom do they have?”*

Those who rejected God’s wisdom proclaimed in the predictions of Jeremiah went on to suffer for their foolishness...

...but those who received God’s wisdom saved their lives!

- Ap. Don’t neglect nor reject the wisdom of God found in His word and in Jesus—God the Son, the Personification of all God’s wisdom!