

APPLY WISDOM TO LIFE

ECCLESIASTES 10:8-20

SP Lawrence Chua, LSBC



Ecclesiastes 10 : 8-20

He who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent. ⁹ He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits wood may be endangered by it. ¹⁰ If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but wisdom brings success. ¹¹ A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; the babbler is no different. ¹² The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious, but the lips of a fool shall swallow him up; ¹³ The words of his mouth begin



with foolishness, and the end of his talk is raving madness. ¹⁴ A fool also multiplies words. No man knows what is to be; who can tell him what will be after him? ¹⁵ The labour of fools wearies them, for they do not even know how to go to the city! ¹⁶ Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning! ¹⁷ Blessed are you, O land, when your king is the son of nobles, and your princes feast at the proper time - For strength and not for drunkenness! ¹⁸ Because of laziness the building decays, and through



idleness of hands the house leaks. ¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry; but money answers everything. ²⁰ Do not curse the king, even in your thought; do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom; for a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 10 : 8-20

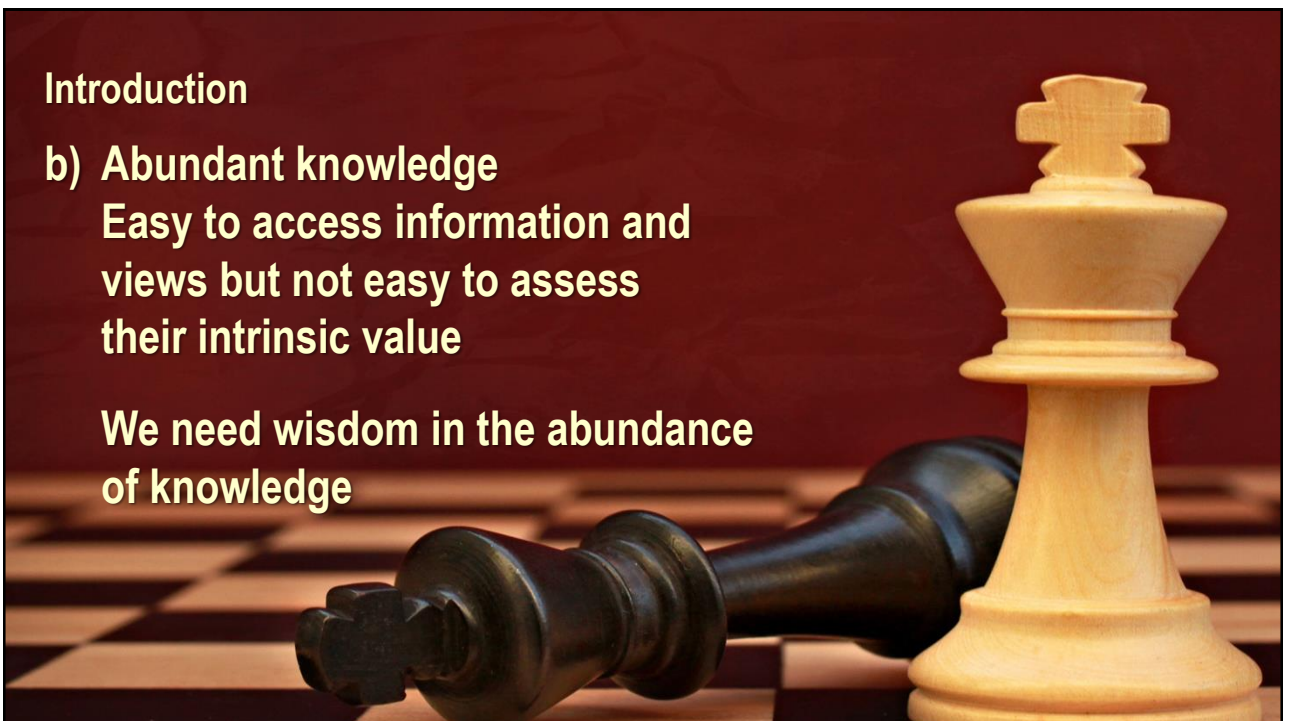




Introduction

- a) Anniversary at BBTC
first message here
8th October 2006

**“I am completely
forgiven”**



Introduction

- b) Abundant knowledge
Easy to access information and
views but not easy to assess
their intrinsic value

**We need wisdom in the abundance
of knowledge**

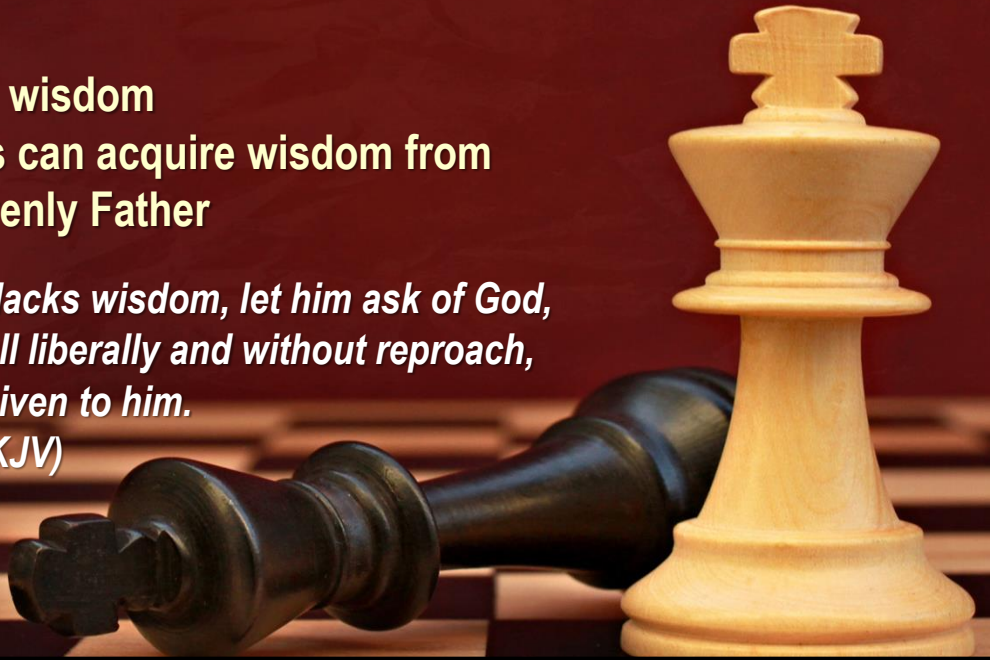
Introduction

c) Acquiring wisdom

Christians can acquire wisdom from their heavenly Father

⁵ 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 (NKJV)



Introduction

Wisdom is not hidden or mystical

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

²⁴ Because I have called and you



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refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke

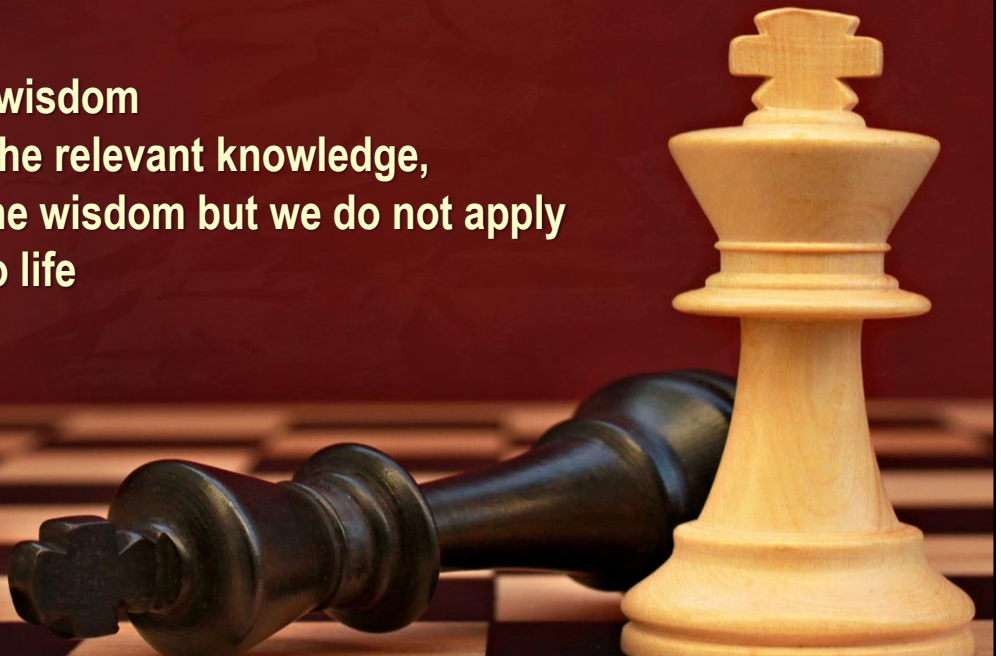
Proverbs 1:20-25 (NKJV)

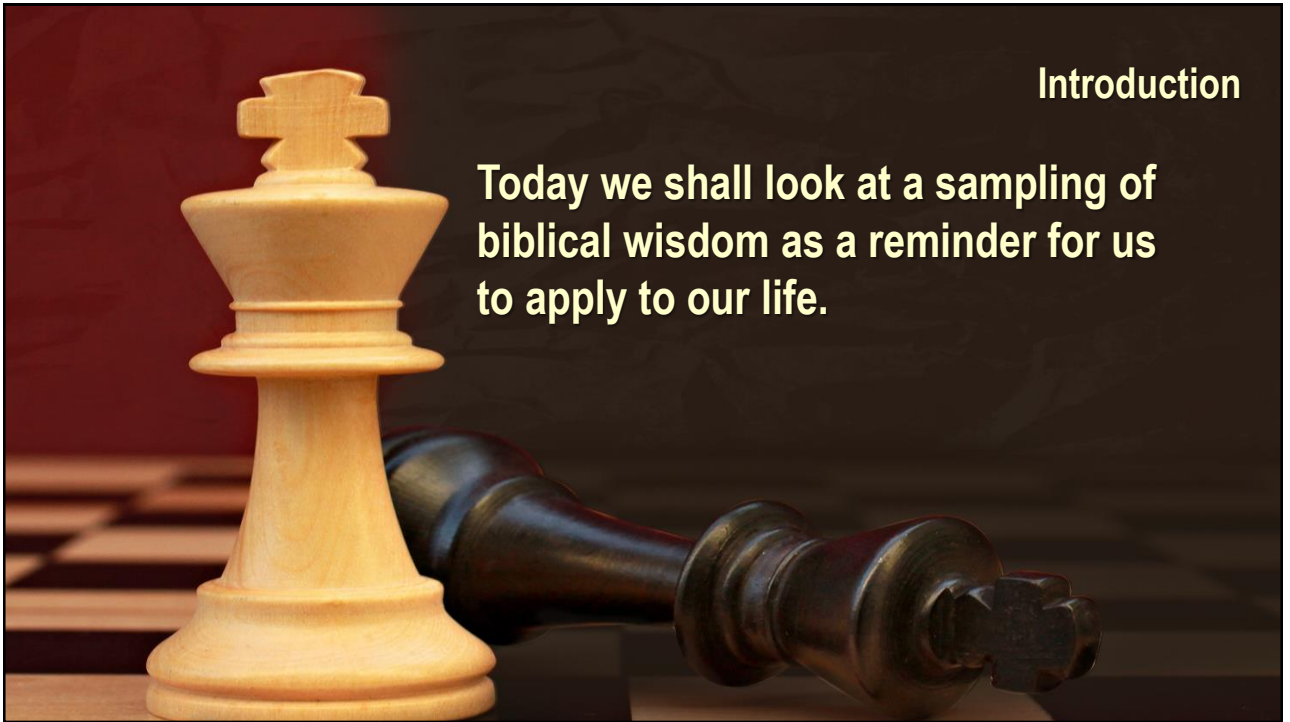


Introduction

d) Applying wisdom

**We have the relevant knowledge,
we have the wisdom but we do not apply
wisdom to life**





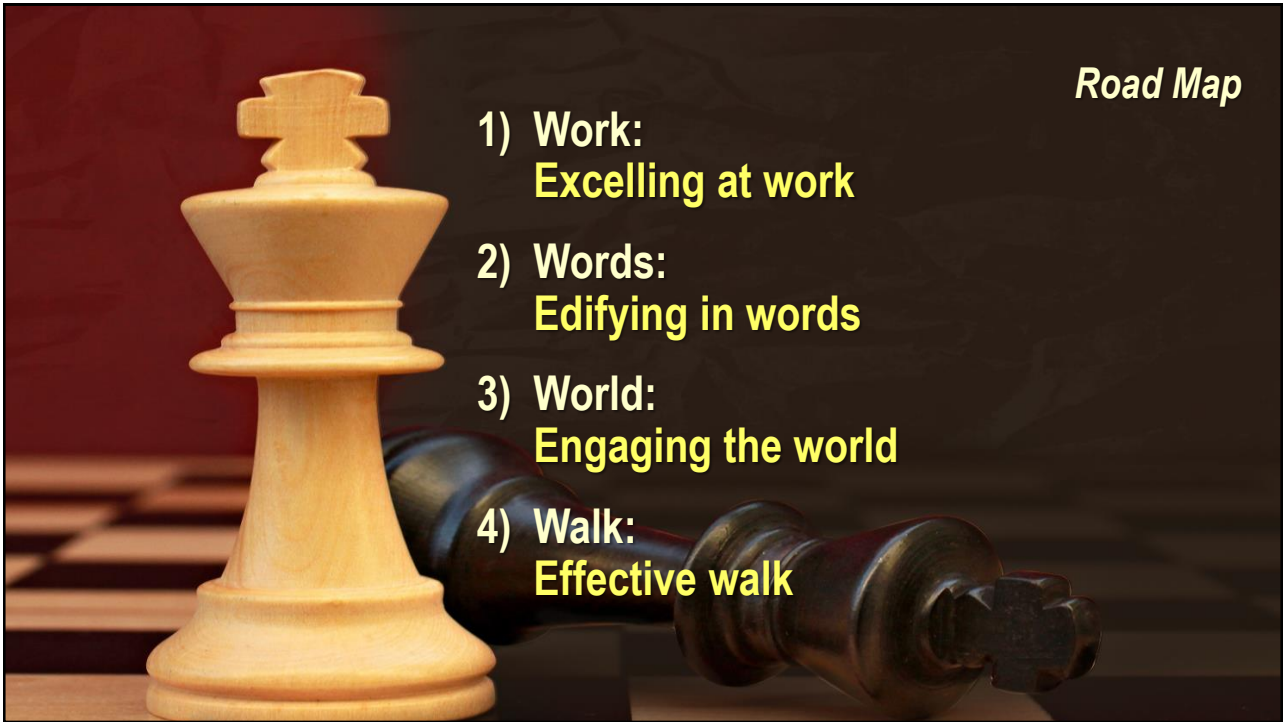
Introduction

Today we shall look at a sampling of biblical wisdom as a reminder for us to apply to our life.



Introduction

Reminder of some words of wisdom in respect of our work, our words, our world and our walk



1) Work: Excelling at work

(Proverbs 14:4, Matthew 10:16)

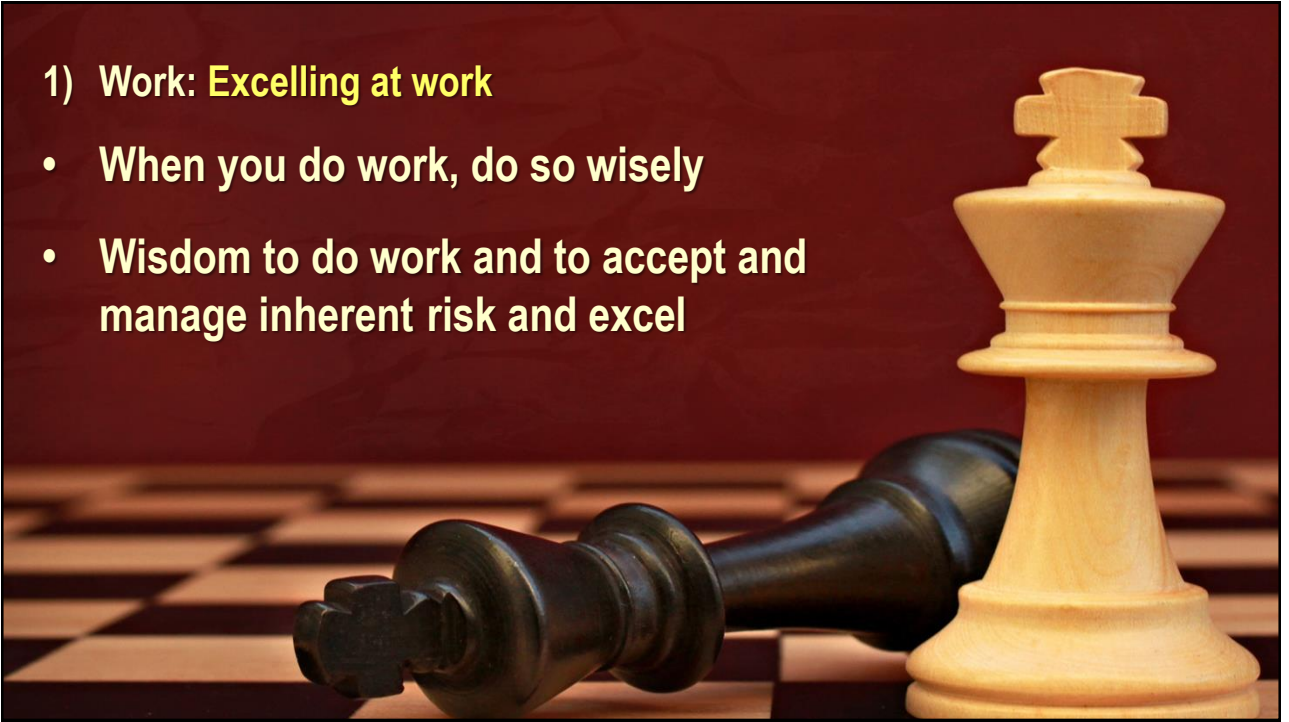
- Ecclesiastes 10:8-10 relate to our work

⁸ He who digs a pit will fall into it, and whoever breaks through a wall will be bitten by a serpent. ⁹ He who quarries stones may be hurt by them, and he who splits wood may be endangered by it. ¹⁰ If the axe is dull, and one does not sharpen the edge, then he must use more strength; but **wisdom brings success.**



1) Work: **Excelling at work**

- When you do work, do so wisely
- Wisdom to do work and to accept and manage inherent risk and excel



1) Work: **Excelling at work**

¹² A sensible man **watches for problems ahead and prepares to meet them**. The simpleton never looks and suffers the consequences.
Proverbs 27:12 (TLB)

¹² A prudent person **foresees danger and takes precautions**. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.
Proverbs 27:12 (NLT)

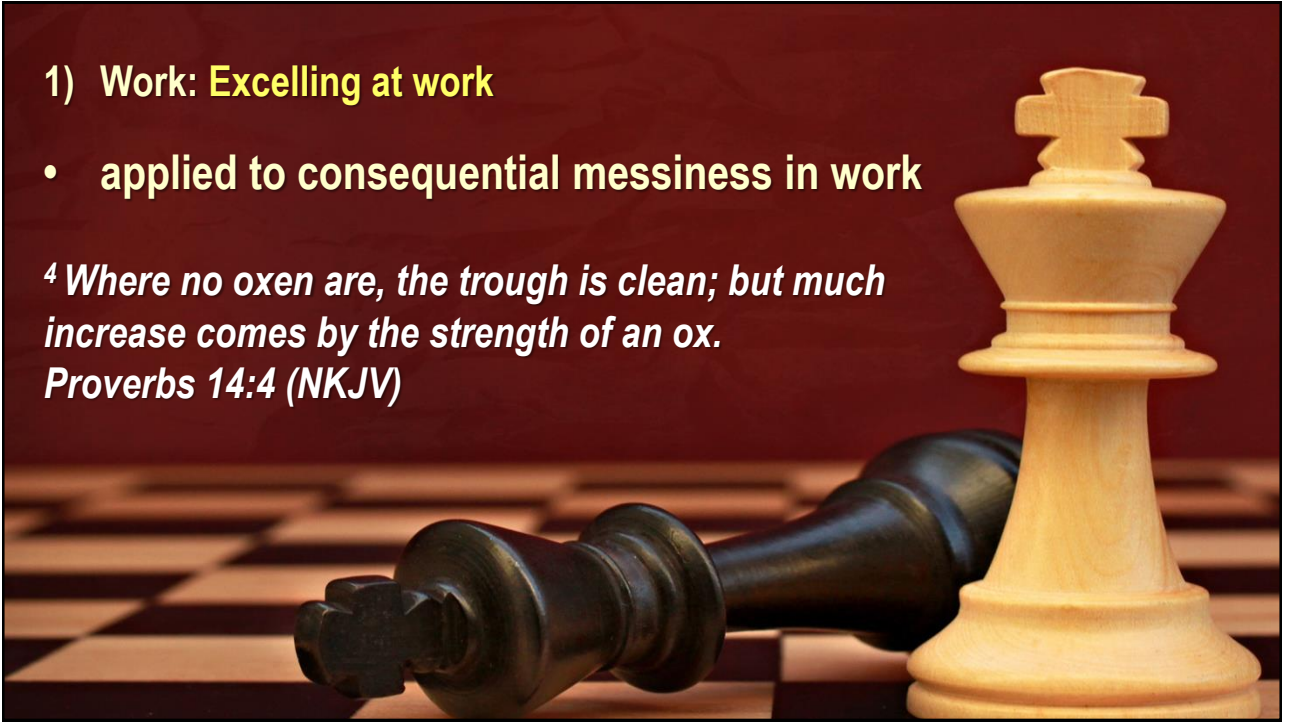


1) Work: **Excelling at work**

- applied to consequential messiness in work

⁴ Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

Proverbs 14:4 (NKJV)



1) Work: **Excelling at work**

- apply wisdom to our work especially our work in the complex modern world

¹⁶ "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

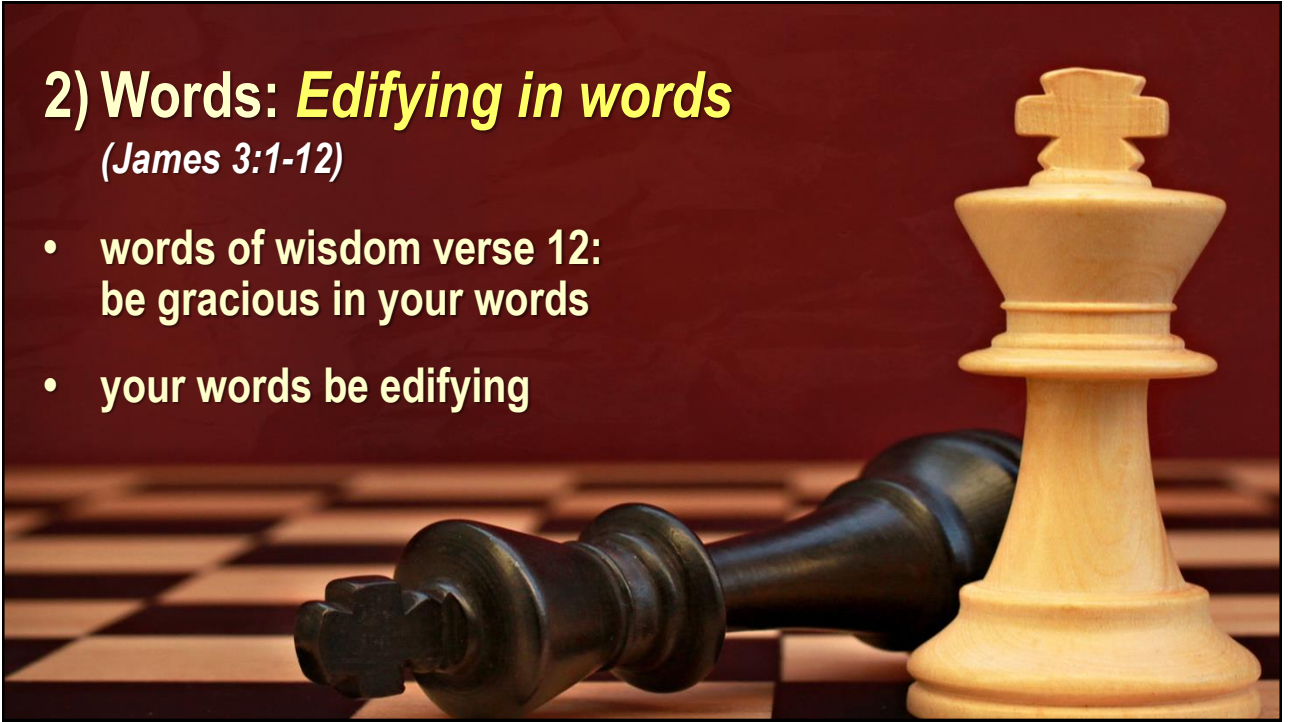
Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)



2) Words: *Edifying in words*

(James 3:1-12)

- words of wisdom verse 12:
be gracious in your words
- your words be edifying



2) Words: *Edifying in words*

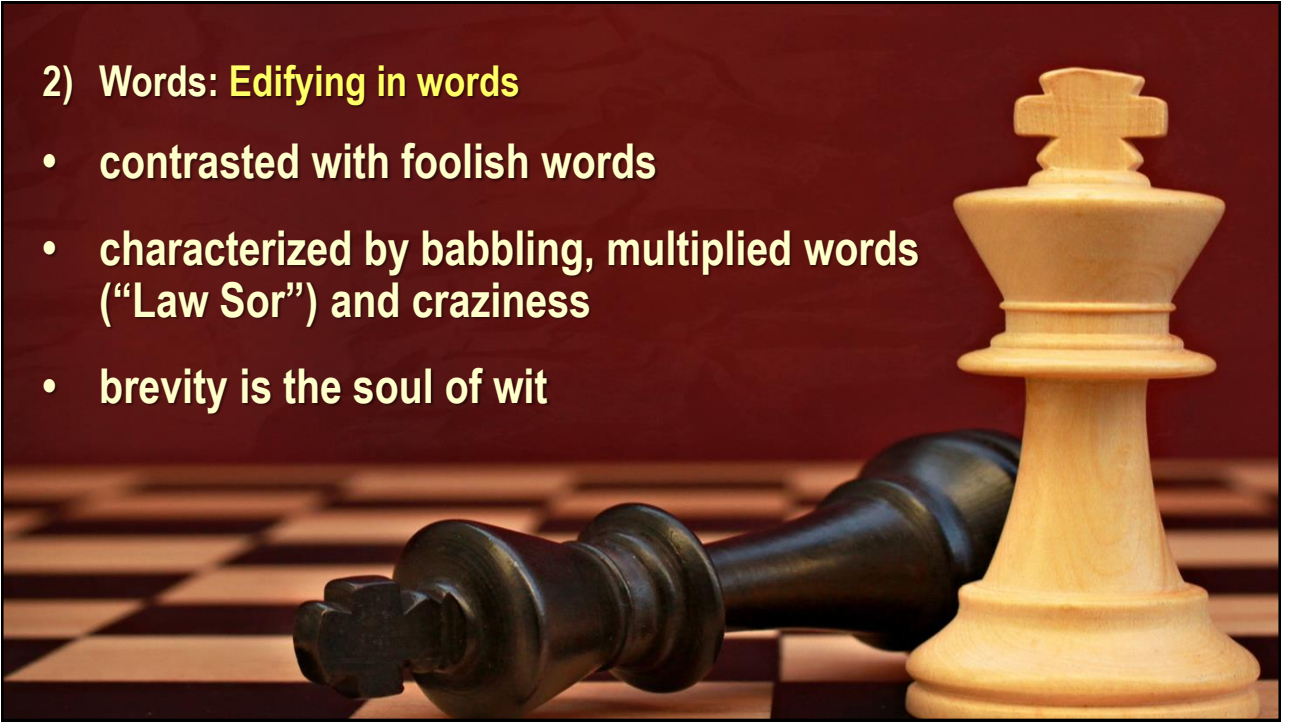
¹¹ A serpent may bite when it is not charmed; the babbler is no different.

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2) Words: Edifying in words

- contrasted with foolish words
- characterized by babbling, multiplied words (“Law Sor”) and craziness
- brevity is the soul of wit



2) Words: Edifying in words

² *All of us often make mistakes. But if a person never makes a mistake in what he says, he is perfect and is also able to control his whole being.* ⁴ *Or think of a ship: big as it is and driven by such strong winds, it can be steered by a very small rudder, and it goes wherever the pilot wants it to go.* ⁵ *So it is with the tongue: small as it is, it can boast about great things. Just think how large a forest can be set on fire by a tiny flame!* ⁶ *And the tongue is like a fire. It is a world of wrong, occupying its place in our bodies and spreading evil through our whole being. It sets on*



2) Words: **Edifying in words**

*fire the entire course of our existence with the fire that comes to it from hell itself. ⁷ We humans are able to tame and have tamed all other creatures—wild animals and birds, reptiles and fish. ⁸ But no one has ever been able to tame the tongue. It is evil and uncontrollable, full of deadly poison. ⁹ We use it to give thanks to our Lord and Father and also to curse other people, who are created in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ **Words of thanksgiving and cursing pour out from the same mouth. My friends, this should not happen!***
James 3:1-12 (GNT)

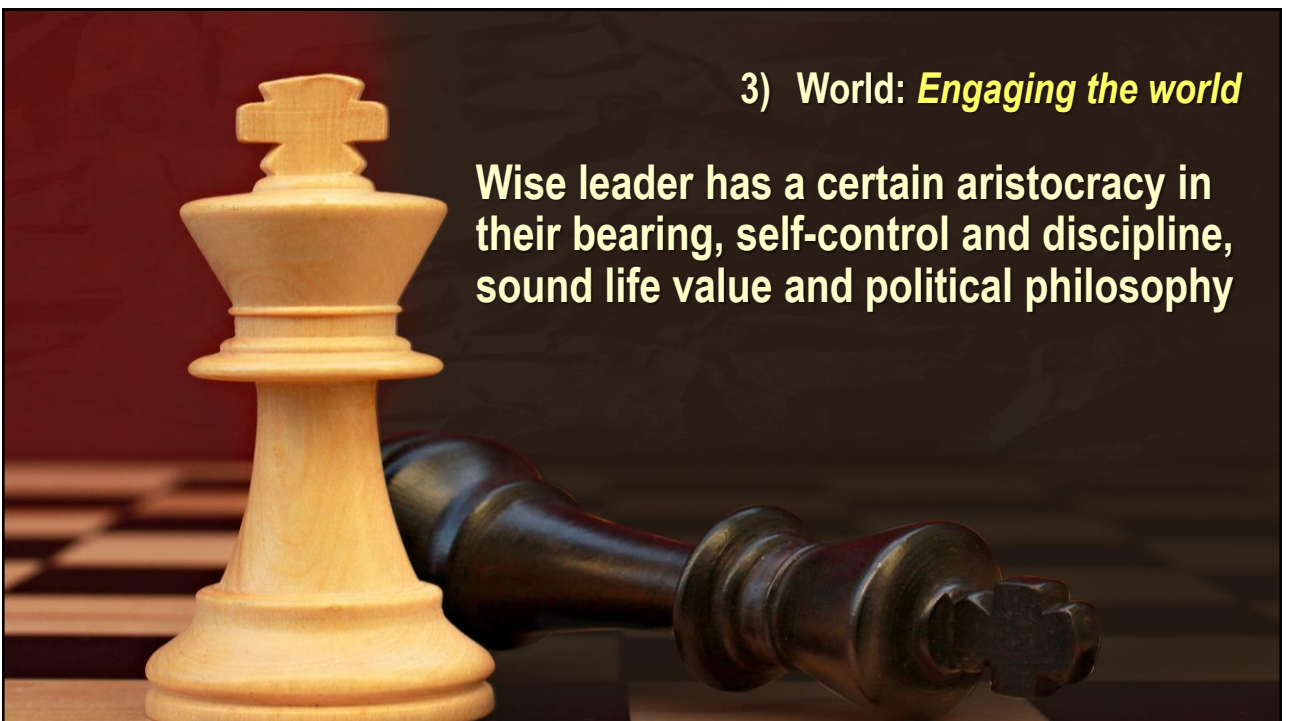


3) World: **Engaging the world**

(1Timothy 2:1-2)

- king of our land i.e. the political leaders of our nation
- be interested in the politics of our land





3) World: *Engaging the world*

¹⁶ **Woe to you, O land**, when your king is a child, and your princes feast in the morning ¹⁷ **Blessed are you, O land**, when your king is the son of nobles (Aristocracy)

And your princes feast at the proper time (Self-control and discipline)

For strength and not for drunkenness!
(Life value and political philosophy)



3) World: *Engaging the world*

² Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NKJV)



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

(Ephesians 5:15-21)

- *wisdom in our daily walk*
- *be found to be a model of good, right or righteousness*



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

The pattern that can emerge from randomness depends very much on the values that we hold and live by



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

*¹⁸ Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks
(Stewardship of maintenance)*

*¹⁹ A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry; but money answers everything
(Stewardship of money)*

*²⁰ Do not curse the king, even in your thought;
do not curse the rich, even in your bedroom
(Stewardship of the mouth)*



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

For a bird of the air may carry your voice, and a bird in flight may tell the matter.

Ecclesiastes 10:8-20 (NKJV)

- Firstly consider the stewardship of maintenance
- Have a robust maintenance culture for yourself (health, house and household)



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

- Secondly consider the stewardship of money
- put money to good use in problem solving
- Thirdly consider stewardship of the mouth
- be careful when you express your negative views



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

Ephesians 5:15-21

We are to walk in wisdom

¹⁵ See then that you **walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,**
¹⁶ **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** ¹⁷ **Therefore do not be**
unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ **And do not be**
drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
¹⁹ **speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,**
singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,
²⁰ **giving thanks always for all things**



4) Walk: *Effective walk*

*to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 submitting to one another in the fear of God
Ephesians 5:15-21 (NKJV)*

*15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise,
16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is
(NIV)*



*we ought to **walk
wisely** and **live
effective lives***



Conclusion

