

**“Therefore”
Col 3:1-4 Part 1**

I. What is the “Therefore” there for?

A. Let’s turn to Col 3 and read our passage for today!

[Col 3:1 Therefore ...](#)

1. Stop right there! That’s our passage for today!
2. Of course the obvious question is, “What is it THERE FOR? (joke)

B. First – let’s talk about what the word means...

1. It’s most IMPORTANT meaning is SYNTACTICAL. In English, I just said...
2. It’s MOST IMPORTANT meaning
 - a) IS how the word functions to connect to adjacent texts of Scripture (what is before word and after it!)
 - b) Technically it is called a “conjunction” (a word that joins things – like “and” does)
3. In connecting to texts together it says: “BASED on ALL That I JUST TOLD YOU (preceding text), THEREFORE, YOU MUST DO THE FOLLOWING...(following text)”

C. OK – so WHY is it so “syntactically” important?!

II. The Therefore Principles

A. Connectedness (of Scripture) Principle (i.e. no proof-texting allowed)

1. One of the WORST errors you can ever commit is to PULL a specific verse out of its context and use it to mean something that it doesn’t mean
 - a) Called “proof-texting” = I want to prove something, so I go find a Scripture to support me!
2. One of the saddest examples was a couple of years ago when San Diego had those huge wild fires and many lost their homes
 - a) Rick Warren – the pastor behind the Purpose Driven Life wrote an article saying that God wanted these people to GRIEVE and MOURN the LOSS OF THEIR HOMES!
 - b) Scriptural support? Mt 5:4 [“Blessed are they who mourn”!](#)
 - c) He just pulled verse right out of context to make point!
 - d) Matt 5:4 deals WITH MOURNING OVER YOUR SIN!
 - (1) God doesn’t ENCOURAGE US to grieve the loss of things He’s going to burn up anyhow!
 - (2) God wants us GRIEVE and MOURN over OUR SIN!
3. SOooo – where does [“therefore”](#) fit in?
 - a) A: “Therefore” SHOWS US THAT you CANNOT ISOLATE ANYTHING from Col 1-2 and Col 3-4!
 - b) WHOLE BOOK is CONNECTED by [“therefore”](#)
 - c) If I pull any verse out, I run GREAT RISK of MISUSING it WITHOUT the FOUNDATION / CONNECTION with Col 1-2!
 - d) Do you see that? That leads us to the FOUNDATION principle!

4. **Connectedness Principle: EVERY TEXT has A CONTEXT. The MEANING of EVERY VERSE is found ONLY in its CONTEXT(s).**

- a) Why the plural on “context(s)”?
- b) A: God has some verses that have meaning in two different contexts – usually prophecy
 - (1) Near fulfillment / Far fulfillment
 - (2) When the verse is seen in the OT, you see it’s near fulfillment
 - (3) Then in the NT, the Holy Spirit shows a LATER context in which the verse has meaning
 - (4) POINT: God can do that, we can’t.

B. Foundation Principle

1. The first principle was important in that we see physical connectivity, and, hence, can’t just pull verses out of context
2. BUT LOOK to SEE GOD’S MEANING behind this...

3. **Foundation Principle: ALL DUTY is BASED on DOCTRINE! EVERYTHING God REQUIRES of US is BASED on DOCTRINE.**

4. What is “doctrine”?
 - a) Doctrine = FACTS or PRINCIPLES given to us BY GOD IN SCRIPTURE
5. Restate Foundation Principle: EVERYTHING GOD REQUIRES of US is BASED on FACTS or PRINCIPLES He has GIVEN US!
6. What does God REQUIRE of US? = the COMMANDS of the BIBLE!
7. This what the BOOKS of THE NT are FAMOUS for – especially Paul’s
 - a) Doctrine then duty / Principles then practice
 - b) Theology followed by Conduct!

C. “Therefore” = BASED on ALL GOD has DONE FOR YOU, “THEREFORE YOU MUST DO...”

1. Clearly we see it here in Colossian right?
 - a) TWO chapters of DOCTRINE – of WHAT GOD has DONE through CHRIST
 - b) The LORDSHIP of CHRIST
 - c) The SUFFICIENCY of CHRIST – our COMPLETENESS in HIM
 - d) Now, 3:1 “THEREFORE” followed by TWO CHAPTERS of APPLICATION!
 - e) But – TWO CHAPTERS of application BASED on the DOCTRINE of Col 1-2
 - f) After 2 Chapters of WHAT Christ has done for us – Paul DIRECTLY and SIMPLY says “Col 3: 1 Therefore ...keep seeking the things above, ...2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.”
 - (1) = LIVE UP TO your POSITION in Christ
 - g) Remember – this is PAUL’s style of writing in his books! Doctrine then duty!
2. How about Romans? first book we see from Paul?
 - a) ELEVEN chapters of DOCTRINE!

b) Paul concludes with

Ro 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

c) Then

Ro 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

(1) Followed by FIVE chapters of APPLICATION

(2) ALL BUILT on the FOUNDATION of the DOCTRINE in Rom 1-11!

3. How about Ephesians?

a) Chapters 1-3 = doctrine

Eph 4: 1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

(1) Follow then by THREE Chapters of DOCTRINE

4. How about Galatians?

a) FOUR chapters of Doctrine!

(1) = FREEDOM in Christ!

(2) Freedom from circumcision and law-keeping for salvation!

(3) Then Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

(4) Another Great "THEREFORE" and TWO chapters of Christian Living!

5. GOD always gives DOCTRINE then DUTY / Principle then Practice = THE FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE

6. Our BEHAVIOR is ALWAYS based ON DOCTRINE.

7. Our side of foundation principle is ...

D. Motivation Principle

1. When I look at what is required of me by God, what is my motivation?

a) God says "Thou shall not kill". That's the command.

(1) Why do I not want to kill?

(2) We see the principle in Gen 9:6

Gen 9:6 "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.

(3) A: I don't want to kill ANYONE because ALL men are made in the IMAGE of GOD!

2. Do I need motivation to obey God? YES!

3. Does God give me motivation to obey Him? YES!

4. If I stated it from the FOUNDATION PRINCIPLE I would answer that my motivation for my DUTY is the DOCTRINE God gave me
5. BUT Let me say it in a way that makes more sense?
6. What is the CONTENT of DOCTRINE God has GIVEN US?
 - a) A: DOCTRINE = What God has done for us IN CHRIST!
 - (1) My MOTIVATION is to LIVE RIGHT in RESPONSE for WHAT Christ has DONE for me!
 - (2) Yeah – I can call Col 1-2 “doctrine”
 - (3) BUT I can also call it ALL that GOD has Done for ME in CHRIST

Col 1:21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—
Col 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, ...; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

 - (a) I'm MOTIVATED to FOLLOW God's COMMANDMENTS! Look what He did for Me!
 - b) DOCTRINE = WHO God is!
 - (1) My MOTIVATION is to BE LIKE GOD and SCRIPTURE tells me what HE is LIKE!
 - (2) When God says in 1 Peter 1:15 “BE HOLY as I AM HOLY!” I go to the REST of SCRIPTURE to see the HOLINESS of GOD
 - (3) Then I know how to be holy as He is holy!

7. MOTIVATION PRINCIPLE: The DOCTRINE of SCRIPTURE = Who God IS / What He has DONE for me in Christ = IS MY MOTIVATION to OBEY HIM and LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY!

8. Why? You are TRYING to BE CHRIST-LIKE
 - a) You are TRYING to LEARN a PERSON and ACT LIKE that PERSON
 - b) God says – DOING is EMPTY and NOT-DOABLE unless you know ME THROUGH MY SON?
9. You see - the ONLY THING that is LIVING and CHANGING is the WORD of GOD
 - a) Your job – BE in the WORD for the PURPOSE of LEARNING CHRIST
 - b) Holy Spirit's Ministry- CHANGE YOU while YOU LEARN and then ACT in accordance with the WORD
 - c) NOTE – The WORD is NEVER APART from LEARNING / BEING Christ-like
 - (1) And – DOING is never done APART from
 - (a) A FOCUS on Christ

(b) A FOLLOWING of His WORD

10. Example: Talking to a Christian man once about his marriage – in desperate need of counseling
- a) I said – you’ve got to get a SOLID Biblical COUNSELOR
 - b) He said “What good is that going to do? Is he going to just tell me we’re in sin and we need to change?” I don’t need that!
11. But, if instead you WALK through Col 1-2 AND SHOW HIM ALL CHRIST has done for him, and THEN ASK IF he can do the COMMANDS of Col 3:18-4:1, how else can they answer IF Holy Spirit is IN THEM?
12. How Many PARENTS / SPOUSES do I know that say that THEY GRIEVE TERRIBLY over their family / marriage
- a) Some have CHILDREN in deep SIN
 - b) Some have marital problems with their spouses
 - c) AND in EVERY PROBLEM case, the other side is ALIENATED and UNWILLING to listen to THEIR “GODLY counsel”
 - d) Problem: These folks AREN’T IN THE WORD themselves. Therefore,
 - (a) Haven’t taught children /spouse
 - (b) Haven’t MODELED right behavior – so kids / spouse AREN’T SEEING THAT THEY SHOULD BE in the WORD
 - (2) Don’t KNOW PROPER Christ-like BEHAVIOR towards other person (instead anger, disgust, pushy, etc)
 - (3) Don’t KNOW proper BIBLICAL MOTIVATION / answers for the other
 - (a) Can’t walk them through Col 1-2 to SHOW them the BASIS for right living.
 - e) What does the other person receive? - A: YOU’RE IN SIN and NEED to GO CHANGE!
 - f) What’s wrong here? THEY have NOT LEARNED CHRIST through His word and NOT SEEN HOW MOTIVATION WORKS in the Christian LIFE!
 - g) Because of that THEY CAN’T PASS IT ON!

13. Repeat: MOTIVATION PRINCIPLE: The DOCTRINE of SCRIPTURE = Who God IS / What He has DONE for me in Christ = IS MY MOTIVATION to OBEY HIM and LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY!

E. Work Principle (Sanctification principle)

1. “Therefore” is a dreaded word wherever I go
 - a) In meetings, we’ll spend first half the meeting hearing things such as
 - (1) Orders are down
 - (2) Competition is tougher than ever
 - (3) Costs are up
 - b) And then comes the dreaded “THEREFORE”
 - (1) Therefore, “we’re letting people go”
 - (2) Therefore, “we’re stopping all unnecessary expenses” – travel, training, etc.

(3) Therefore, “we not giving raises next year

(4) AND THEREFORE, we now need you

(a) CUT COSTS

(b) INCREASE SALES

(c) BE MORE PRODUCTIVE

c) “[Therefore](#)” is WHERE the WORK COMES IN!

2. SAME in SCRIPTURE!

a) “[Therefore](#)” MEANS there IS SOMETHING you MUST DO!

b) Martin Lloyd Jones: “In the light of this word “therefore” we must say that sanctification is NOT a gift to be received; it is rather something that has to be worked out in the light of doctrine. It is an imperative, a command. The teaching which assures us that we have nothing to do but to receive sanctification as a gift, that is to say, to allow Christ to live His life in us, bypasses the Scripture, eliminates whole sections of the Scripture.”

c) Did you hear that? PEOPLE believe that THEY DON’T have to do anything!

(1) God will change me!

(2) So, I don’t have to study, pray, apply myself, stop sinning!

(3) God’s going to do that for me / to me!

(4) Lloyd Jones says: “The teaching which assures us that we have nothing to do but to receive sanctification as a gift, that is to say, to allow Christ to live His life in us, bypasses the Scripture, eliminates whole sections of the Scripture”

(5) IOW – YOU HAVE to IGNORE GOD’S OWN WORD to BELIEVE THIS – IOW IT ISN’T TRUE!

d) How does God say it?

[Php 2:12](#) So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

(1) We are to WORK OUT our SALVATION!

(2) It says “CONTINUALLY WORK to BRING your SALVATION to COMPLETION!”

e) Or how about these verses?

[1 Co 9:24](#) Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only* one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. [25](#) Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26](#) Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; [27](#) but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified

[2 Co 7:1](#) Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

[Ga 6:7](#) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. [8](#) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. [9](#) Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

2 Pe 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, 7 and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins. 10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; 11 for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

f) I like to tell people that the Commands of Scripture are not there for God to hear himself speak!

3. You know what the sad thing is?

a) WE all KNOW THIS

b) YET -We all PURSUE of WORLDLY THINGS!

c) We spend more time DIETING to look right than we do putting off sin to look right spiritually!

d) We're coming into TWO CHAPTERS of APPLICATION

e) I want you DOING THIS STUFF!

4. **WORK PRINCIPLE:** We are **COMMANDED** to **WORK OUR SIDE** of **SANCTIFICATION** in **RESPONSE** to **WHAT GOD** has **DONE FOR US** **THROUGH** Jesus Christ!

III. **WHAT DO YOU PURSUE – earthly treasure or eternal treasure?**

A. What are you willing to work for / toil for / labor for / suffer for/ invest your time, energy, money for?

B. Old saying: “Actions speak louder than words!”

1. So true – You can TELL me all you want about your priorities BUT REALLY ALL I have to do is watch your life to KNOW what your priorities are!
2. Your ACTIONS SCREAM OUT who you are

C. What did Christ tell us in Matt 6:19-20?

Mt 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 “But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;

1. Boy is there a lot pack into those verses!
2. The obvious point – HEAVENLY things are ETERNAL – EARTHLY THINGS are not!
3. BUT notice the verb “store up” – HIDDEN in that WORD is A LIFE OF LABOR, WORRY, ANXIETY, etc.
 - a) And Christ spends rest of chapter talking about that!

D. Probably the BEST EXAMPLE I know of wasted effort to “STORE UP” is man’s pursuit of GOLD

1. Just below our house is a water ditch DUG BY HAND – JUST to move WATER to get to gold!
2. I cannot FATHOM the MAN EFFORT over HISTORY to get GOLD – MOST of IT BY HAND LABOR
3. NOT to mention THE RISK! Loss of LIFE / Destroyed LIVES, etc WAS HUGE!
4. Just go look at some small part of the gold country some time and contemplate the work it took JUST for that area – BY HAND – and you will be left dumbfounded.
 - a) Just come look at our water ditch – about 1.25 miles long and think about the hand labor and you’ll be awestruck
5. It’s NOT HARD to TELL WHERE MOST MEN STORE UP TREASURE, right? – WHAT THEY TOIL and DESTROY THERE LIVES TO GET!
 - a) But as Christ said – NONE of it HAS ETERNAL VALUE!
6. Show called “Gold Fever” and the host (Tommy) is WILLING to TAKE INCREDIBLE RISK to get gold
 - a) Other night went into an abandoned mine in Arizona
 - b) Went down almost 1000 feet into a BROKEN DOWN, CRUMBLING MINE!
 - c) Huge SUPPORT BEAMS were CRACKED and BENT and SPLINTERED
 - d) Overhead ROCK was CRACKED /Many Cave-ins
 - e) Planks he walked on were OLD and BROKEN
 - f) He fell a couple of times – broke his lantern
 - g) BUT ALL the TIME he was LOOKING for a PIECE of GOLD to be SHIMMERING away in the ROCK face or FLOOR somewhere!
 - h) JUST HIS PRESENCE could have brought hundreds of feet of ROCK down on him
 - i) THEN back on top HE SHOWS WHERE the MINE had massive cave-ins in the past and many LOST THEIR LIVES! Just incredible

E. Q: IF someone were to MAKE a MOVIE of YOUR LIFE–

1. AND they KNEW ALL of YOU SECRETS –
2. KNEW WHERE you INVESTED YOUR HEART and SOUL, TIME and ENERGY
3. What story would that movie tell?
4. Will you be seen TOILING for TREASURE on EARTH or TREASURE in heaven?
5. Maybe you don’t RISK like TOMMY, but maybe you invest like a Donald Trump or just SQUANDER away your time selfishly – you PURSUE SELFISH satisfaction and ease-of-life LIKE others PURSUE GOLD!
6. Let’s go look at a passage of SCRIPTURE that TALKS about the PURSUIT of TREASURE!

F. TURN to JOB 28 – did you know that GOD DIRECTLY ADDRESSES the PURSUIT of GOLD?

Job 28:1 “Surely there is a mine for silver And a place where they refine gold. 2 “Iron is taken from the dust, And copper is smelted from rock. 3 [Let’s talk about JUST HOW RIDICULOUSLY FAR MAN WILL GO FOR EARTHLY TREASURE] “Man puts an end to darkness, And to the farthest limit he searches out The rock in gloom and deep shadow. 4 “He sinks a shaft far from habitation, Forgotten by the foot; They hang and swing to and fro far from men. 5 “The earth, from it comes food, And underneath it is turned up as fire. 6 “Its rocks are the source of sapphires, And its dust *contains* gold. 7 “The path no bird of prey knows, Nor has the falcon’s eye caught sight of it. 8 “The proud beasts have not trodden it, Nor has the *fierce* lion passed over it. 9 “He puts his hand on the flint; He overturns the mountains at the base. 10 “He hews out channels through the rocks, And his eye sees anything precious. 11 “He dams up the streams from flowing (ever see the Yuba river on the way to Downieville?) , And what is hidden he brings out to the light. 12 “But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? 13 “Man does not know its value, Nor is it found in the land of the living. [BINGO – you’re not going to FIND ANYTHING of GOD in EARTHLY (i.e. living) THINGS!] 14 “The deep says, ‘It is not in me’; And the sea says, ‘It is not with me.’ 15 [Now, let’s compare the value of wisdom vs. earthly treasure] “Pure gold cannot be given in exchange for it, Nor can silver be weighed as its price. 16 “It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, In precious onyx, or sapphire. 17 “Gold or glass cannot equal it, Nor can it be exchanged for articles of fine gold. 18 “Coral and crystal are not to be mentioned; And the acquisition of wisdom is above *that of* pearls. 19 “The topaz of Ethiopia cannot equal it, Nor can it be valued in pure gold. 20 “Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? 21 “Thus it is hidden from the eyes of all living And concealed from the birds of the sky. 22 “Abaddon and Death say, ‘With our ears we have heard a report of it.’ 23 “God understands its way, And He knows its place. 24 “For He looks to the ends of the earth And sees everything under the heavens. 25 “When He imparted weight to the wind And meted out the waters by measure, 26 When He set a limit for the rain And a course for the thunderbolt, 27 Then He saw it and declared it; He established it and also searched it out. 28 [God- who knows and sees all – concludes:]“And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.’””

1. WHAT and INDICTMENT / CONDEMNATION on ALL EARTHLY PURSUITS for TREASURE! Ouch!
2. NONE of them will FIND ANYTHING of GOD!
3. Do you know what the BIBLICAL COUNTERPART to Job 28 is? = PROVERBS 2! Turn there!
 - a) What SHOULD you PURSUE?!

G. NOW – let’s READ Proverbs 2!

Pr 2:1 My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, 2 Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; 3 For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; 4 If you seek her as silver And search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 Then you will discern the fear of the LORD And discover the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth *come* knowledge and understanding. 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is* a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. 9 Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity *and* every good course. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11 Discretion will

guard you, Understanding will watch over you, 12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; 15 Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways; 16 To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words; 17 That leaves the companion of her youth And forgets the covenant of her God; 18 For her house sinks down to death And her tracks lead to the dead; 19 None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life. 20 So you will walk in the way of good men And keep to the paths of the righteous. 21 For the upright will live in the land And the blameless will remain in it; 22 But the wicked will be cut off from the land And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

1. IF you are WILLING to PURSUE WISDOM in the SAME way MEN PURSUE treasure, YOU WILL REAP the GODLY LIFE!
2. You'll be DELIVERED from EVIL / GUARDED from SIN
3. God WILL BLESS your LIFE!
4. Remember – BIBLICAL WISDOM = A GODLY LIFE! = BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE + ACTION!
 - a) = a Life LIVED
 - b) To call someone WISE = I've SEEN THAT THEY LIVE A GODLY LIFE
 - c) = MATURE CHRISTIAN LIFE!

H. BUT – as theses passages make clear!

1. IT TAKES PURSUIT!
2. AND – YOU are PURSUING / INVESTING in SOMETHING!
 - a) It just may NOT be godly!

I. AND – IT is INCREDIBLE for a CHRISTIAN NOT to PURSUE God's WISDOM!

1. Think about it –men of Job 28 MOVE MTNS of DIRT for something they DON'T YET HAVE!
 - a) = PURSUIT of a DREAM of WEALTH!
2. CHRISTIANS – CALLED to PURSUE a godly life IN RESPONSE to ETERNAL FORGIVENESS and ETERNAL TREASURE ALREADY OURS!
 - a) God says – FIRST – YOU are GUILTY and I FORGAVE YOU at the COST of MY SON's life!
 - b) Second – Here's what I need to you to do IN RESPONSE for what I've ALREADY done FOR YOU!
 - c) AND – even THOUGH I've DONE it ALL FOR YOU, I'll REWARD you for what you do for Me while on earth!
 - d) You'll get "praise and honor and glory" when My Son returns for you (1 Peter 1:7)

J. So I ask you – HOW can you NOT DEVOTE your LIFE to the PURSUIT of CHRIST-LIKENESS?

K. UNTIL you do – you are NOT of any value to GOD – He can't USE your LIFE in HIS ETERNAL PLAN