

## The Wisdom Pyramid

Week 3: (Chapters 7 & 8)

April 2, 2025

### Helpful Tips to make the most of this study:

1. Read the assigned chapters before each class.
2. Be prepared to discuss and share from your life (struggles, God's grace, what you've applied since the last class). We grow in community, so let's respect each other's perspectives and differences of opinion.
3. Commit to being present at each class.
4. Apply the truths and find accountability.

### Schedule

**Week 3: April 2** | Books & Beauty (Chapters 7-8)

\*\*\*No Class April 9 and April 16 \*\*\*

**Week 4: April 23** | Nature (Chapter 6)

**Week 5: April 30** | Social Media (Chapters 9-10)

### Review

What is wisdom (Proverbs 1:1-7; 2:1-15)? Why is Scripture the primary source of wisdom and standard by which all other sources are measured (page 73; 2 Timothy 3:14-16)?

What habits or rhythms have worked for you in making Scripture more central in your day-to-day life? What resources (books, commentaries, videos, podcasts, etc.) have helped you with this?

If we have the Bible - and it is an infallible source of truth - then why do we also need the church? What role does the local church, and church tradition, play in terms of gleaning wisdom from Scripture?

How does embracing limitations actually promote freedom and flourishing (page 93)?

How does the church correct the disembodiment we experience online (page 95)?

How does the church promote past, present, and future continuity in an age of "chronological snobbery" (page 97)?

### Chapter 7: Books

**Principle:** In a world marked by digital distraction, books connect us to a variety of ideas and experiences that encourage us to think deeply and foster wisdom.

Beyond the *content* of what we read in books, why is the *posture* of reading books conducive to gaining wisdom?

Give an example of a time you've had an ah-ha moment of understanding, you were moved with empathy for another person, or felt the thrill of escape after reading a book.

Do you agree with McCracken's statement, "When we escape not to avoid reality but to encounter it, not to dull our senses but to enliven it, escapism is a good thing" (page 121)?

How does reading challenge the *too much, too fast, too me* of our digital age (page 122)?

Why is it valuable to read books that challenge you or contain ideas with which you strongly disagree? When was the last time you read a book like that?

How do you choose the books you read? How might you be more intentional about selecting books that are conducive to gaining wisdom?

## **Chapter 8: Beauty**

**Principle:** "All the beauty to be found throughout the whole creation, is but the reflection of the diffused beams of the Being who hath an infinite fullness of brightness and glory."

- Jonathan Edwards

Give an example of a time you felt the delight that comes with encountering beauty as Brett describes at the beginning of the chapter.

We often think about wisdom in terms of the rational - knowledge and information that fill our brains. But what role do the heart and emotion play in wisdom, and how does beauty shape these parts of us?

How are beauty and Sabbath related? Why are things like rest, stillness, space, and quietness important for living a wise life?

Does an objective standard of beauty exist, or is beauty simply in the eye of the beholder? How might other sections of the Wisdom Pyramid help us answer this question?

### **Recommended Resource**

*Lit! A Christian Guide to Reading Books* by Tony Reinke

**Next Class, April 23: Chapter 6**