Who is Wise and Understanding Among You?
(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:
A. Man’s interest in wisdom dates back to Adam and Eve - Gen. 3:4-6
B. Wisdom is very desirable blessing - James 3:13; Prov. 2:6
C. The world recognizes wisdom, it just can’t produce it.
   1. “True wisdom comes from the overcoming of suffering and sin. All true wisdom is therefore touched with sadness.” Whittaker Chambers
   2. “Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; wisdom is humble that he knows no more.” William Cowper
   3. “All wisdom may be reduced to two words: wait and hope.” Alexandre Dumas
   4. Ecc. 9:17-18
D. Consider some identifying characteristics of a wise man

I. WHO IS A WISE MAN?
A. One who humbly performs good works that reflect the wisdom of God
   1. 1Cor. 3:18-20
B. One who respect his parents - Prov. 13:1, 15:5
   1. Manifested by being a obedient child - Eph. 6:1; Luke 2:51
C. One who controls his lips - Prov. 10:19, 17:28, 29:11; Psalm 39:1; 1Peter 3:10
   1. A wise man refrains from:
      a. Cursing - Ex. 20:7
      b. Railing (to revile, speak evil of) - 1Tim. 6:4-5
      c. Filthy speaking - Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:17
      d. Hasty words - James 1:19
      e. Deceit - Jer. 9:8
      f. Gossip - Lev. 19:16
D. One who wins souls - Prov. 11:30
   1. Bringing one soul to Christ is the highest achievement possible for a human being. Bringing souls to Christ is the first and primary work of a local church.
   2. This is the last instruction Christ gave on earth before ascending to His Father - Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Ez. 33:8-9
E. One who fears evil and departs from it
   1. Heb. 3:13; Prov. 14:16; 1Thes. 5:22; Rom. 12:9; 1Peter 3:11
   2. People tend to have three different approaches toward sin:
      a. All embracing - Little, if any, moral compass; unashamed; belligerent toward instruction or correction
      b. Apologetic - Mildly embarrassed; somewhat troubled in conscience; insufficient self-control; unwilling to discipline self
      c. Actively resistant - Aware that one is not perfect, but strongly striving for perfection; struggles with temptation and sin with all of one’s strength, and seeks restoration immediately upon failure
F. One who hears and obeys the Lord
   1. Ecc. 12:13; Matt. 7:24; James 1:21-25
G. One who prepares - Matt. 25:1-4
   1. Contrast these two men:
      a. Saul - 1Sam. 15:13, 24-25, 30, 26:21
      b. Paul - 2Tim. 4:6-8
   2. The prepared man succeeds; the unprepared man fails.