

Introduction

1. Series
2. Not complete understanding but fuller
3. “Lean not to your own understanding”
 - minds are human - being “go to”
 - like tigers equipped with claws
 - people with minds
 - deer equipped with smell, and sightSo... don’t lean there, but trust God
4. Passeth all understanding
5. Scripture

I. Prayer for Wisdom (1:17)

1. “Spirit of wisdom and revelation”
 - far from “check your mind” idea
 - but, also a different type of wisdom
 - we think intellectually - this is not what Paul prays for
 - know information
 - from cell phone
 - from Google
 - a broader wisdom - understanding, than just knowing things
2. A Scientist “knows”
 - but knows only what he can touch
 - or prove by statistics
 - life is bigger than science
 - covid teaches - statistics to lead this way
 - statistics to lead that way
 - solution to smoking - put a label on it - that hasn’t worked
3. “Eyes enlightened”
 - come to understand
 - John 9 - blind man is healed - then becomes a believer
 - Jesus was critiqued - He said the Pharisees were blind - spiritually
4. Eyes enlightened
 - prays they “get it”
 - two people listen to a joke - one “gets it” and the other does not
 - two people same math problem - one “gets it” the other does not
 - husbands and wives - same relationship - but don’t “get” the problem or need
 - So... prays eyes opened - God gives
5. Continuing enlightenment
 - after saved he wants them to grow in this
 - understand fuller

II. Darkened Heart (4:17-19)

1. Read 4:17-19
2. Same mind but darkened
3. Futile thinking (17)
 - Note same mind but different use - futile
4. Darkened understanding (18)
 - perspective or viewpoint
 - ex - don't see others and their needs
5. Ignorance within (18)
 - the problem is not "out there" - the problem is within
 - ex - two people one blind and one sighted
 - sun is there but one can't "see" it
6. So... first Futile Thinking
 - Next - Darkened Understanding
 - Then, Ignorance Within
7. Now... Because of hardened hearts (18)
 - in a cave without light you go blind
 - ex - Hollywood culture is blind - a reprobate mind - so hard, so blind it will never be right
 - reject light long enough you go blind
 - note also mind and heart are connected
8. Given over (19)
 - ARE given over - themselves
 - But don't miss this
 - a process of hardening
 - a process of darkening
9. Same process is found in Romans 1:
 - verses 21-32
 - so God gave them over
 - End approve others

III. "Eyes Enlightened" (1:18)

1. Satan darkens (3)
 - God enlightens
2. Satan darkens - then darkness
 - God enlightens - then light
3. Satan darkens - darkness - lies
 - God enlightens - light - truth
4. Remember this? You will know truth and that truth will set you free
5. "Renewing of our minds"
 - by this be transformed
 - don't be conformed - drift, trends

"Made new in the attitude of your minds" (4:23)