Before the Earth was: I Was

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Prov. 8:12-23, "*[12]I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. [13]The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. [14]Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. [15]By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. [16]By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. [17]I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. [18]Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. [19]My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. [20]I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: [21]That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. [22]The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. [23]I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.*"

I. **Christians are to have knowledge**
   a. 2 Pet. 1:5, "*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*"
   b. 2 Tim. 2:15, "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"
   c. Eph. 6:14-15, "*[14]Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15]And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*"

II. **But Where does our knowledge begin?**
   a. Prov. 1:7, "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*"
   b. And what is the Fear of God?
      i. Job 28:28 **(Wisdom)**, "*And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*"
      ii. Prov. 2:1-6, "*[1]My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; [2]So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; [3]Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; [4]If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest*

for her as for hid treasures; [5] Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. [6]For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."

III. Thus we know that we are to seek the wisdom of God

a. 1 Cor. 1:17-25, "*[17]For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. [18]For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. [19]For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. [20]Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? [21]For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. [22]For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: [23]But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; [24]But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. [25]Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*"

b. Col. 2:8, "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*"

IV. Look at a small portion of the Wisdom of God

a. James 3:4-18 **(Tongue)**, "*[4]Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. [5]Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! [6]And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. [7]For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: [8]But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. [9]Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the*

similitude of God. [10]Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. [11]Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? [12]Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. [13]Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. [14]But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. [15]This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. [16]For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. [17]But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. [18]And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

b. Mark 7:6-23 **(Traditions)**, "*[6]He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. [7]Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. [8]For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. [9]And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. [10]For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: [11]But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. [12]And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; [13]Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. [14]And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: [15]There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. [16]If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. [17]And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. [18]And he saith unto them, Are ye so*

without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; ***19****Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?* ***20****And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.* ***21****For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,* ***22****Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:* ***23****All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*"

c. Luke 14:34-35 **(Salt is good)**, "***34****Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?* ***35****It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*"

d. Matt. 5:13 **(We are salt)**, "*Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*"

e. Col. 4:5-6 **(How much salt should I use?)**, "***5****Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.* ***6****Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*"

V. Conclusion

a. Ecc. 12:13-14, "***13****Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.* ***14****For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*"

b. James 1:5-8, "**5**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **6**But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **7**For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. **8** A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."