

# GODLY WISDOM IN A SCIENTIFIC WORLD

## *Note to the speaker:*

While presenting a balanced view of science and technology, place emphasis on Bible wisdom. Point to spiritual dangers of putting too much confidence in human wisdom

### **MANY LOOK TO SCIENCE TO REMOVE HUMAN WOES** (6 min.)

Science should interest us (*g93 4/8 6-8*)

Products of science, such as electric power, automobiles, airplanes, radio, TV, computers, and medical developments, affect everyone in some way

Many regard the application of scientific knowledge as the principal means of solving man's problems and ushering in health and security (*g98 3/8 3-4*)

Others fear that runaway technology is a threat that will bring social distress, environmental disasters, and political instability

A number of questions arise: What is a balanced view of scientific technology? Can science safely guide our future and provide the solutions to mankind's problems? Does the Bible shed light on this issue?

### **BENEFITS AND DANGERS OF MODERN SCIENCE** (15 min.)

Some technology has proved helpful in various aspects of life

Medicine: increased life expectancy, improved health

Agriculture: increased food supply, improved nutrition

Transportation and communications: global travel and distribution of goods and information made possible

True Christians use helpful technology to advance Kingdom work

Advanced printing and other publishing methods (*w99 8/15 23-4*)

Computers are used in writing, illustrating, and translating Bible-based publications

Automobiles, airplanes, and other modern means of transportation helpful in getting the good news preached in all the earth

Modern construction methods and materials for building Kingdom Halls

Man's application of scientific knowledge has limitations (*g93 6/22 21-4; g00 12/8 18-19*)

Ignorance and the abuse of modern technology have created threats to life and health

Pollution menaces all systems of life on earth

Buildup of weapons for military deterrence continues to threaten mankind's survival

Pursuit of human wisdom has proved spiritually destructive for some

Diverts attention from the Creator to the creation (*Ro 1:25*)

Induces unwarranted confidence in human achievements

Entices people to build lives around things rather than God (*1Jo 2:15-17*)

Significant factor in moral breakdown and social distress

Promotes full devotion to professional careers, fostering family neglect with consequent growth in divorce, delinquency

Wisdom of sinful men has thus proved to be "foolishness," defective, often leading to ruin (*1Co 3:19, 20*)

Scientific knowledge itself is not foolish, but the methods of acquiring it and the application of it often defy godly principles and prove harmful (*it-2 1192-3*)

Where, then, can man turn for sound guidance and protection in this scientific world?

### **GODLY WISDOM A SOUND GUIDE IN A SCIENTIFIC WORLD** (19 min.)

Jehovah's wisdom superior to that of humans (*1Co 1:19, 20*)

His Word helps us recognize limitations of human wisdom (*w00 5/1 8; g98 3/8 10-12*)

Provides standards by which to set realistic priorities

Bible addresses true human needs and problems of earth itself

Foretells a totally different way of life (*Isa 65:20, 21*)

What Kingdom government with Christ as King, not human technology, will do

Restore earth and remove causes of misery (*Re 11:18*)

Provide paradisaic abundance and security for everyone

Bring obedient humans to perfection by dealing with cause of sickness and death (*Ro 5:18, 19; g00 12/8 18-19*)

Unlike human knowledge of science and technology, the Scriptures provide guidance for coping with present conditions

The Bible provides moral standards that harmonize with man's created nature, protecting him from worldly philosophies (*Ro 1:26, 27; 1Co 6:18; Col 2:8*)

The Scriptures contain guidelines for family life that consider the needs of each member

Husband and wife to express deep love, respect (Eph 5:22, 28, 33)

Children learn to trust in Jehovah and devote themselves to God's service, not to vain careers in dying system of things (1Co 15:58; Eph 6:4; g98 3/8 19-21)

God's Word invites us to become part of a unified brotherhood of true friends

The Bible teaches us to love Jehovah, Jesus, and one another (1Jo 4:7-11)

It is vital to recognize that associating with those who lack knowledge of God can destroy hope (1Co 15:33, 34)

Godly devotion opens way to a bright future, thus helping us to be content with present provisions (1Ti 6:6-8)

Time and resources not dissipated by preoccupation with glitter of modern technology

**LET GODLY WISDOM SAFEGUARD YOU FOR A PROSPEROUS FUTURE** (5 min.)

True Christians strive to set their hearts on the future, the new world under God's Kingdom (2Pe 3:13, 17)

Kingdom will remove system that hopes in man rather than in God

Neither human wisdom nor scientific technology will prevent this global change

Establish priorities that harmonize with your hope (Php 1:9-11)

Pattern your life in ways consistent with God's instructions (Tit 2:11-14)

Refuse to be distracted by world's scientific achievements

Cultivate close relationship with loving Creator (Mic 6:8)

Stay close to Jehovah's godly organization

Everlasting life will afford us the opportunity to unravel some of the limitless mysteries of God's creation (Ec 3:11)

In Paradise, true science and godly wisdom will bring much delight

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read or commented on)