

Spiritual Escape (continued)

gratitude for His devotion to us. Our commitment to working for the good of those whom we (either directly or indirectly) are attempting to heal can be used to reflect the character of a God who has spent thousands of years preparing and enacting His plan of redemption for us and for this world.

And so I will conclude by reframing the initial question that I used to open this talk. "Given the great plan of our Lord for the restoration of this world, how can I best use my work to embody that redemptive love?"

References

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Editorial

by Timothy E Welty, MA PharmD FCCP BCPS; Professor; Department of Pharmacy Practice; School of Pharmacy; University of Kansas

Humans are amazing creations. As pharmacists we tend to think of this in terms of the intricacies of the human body and the way it functions. Certainly the anatomic and physiologic design of the human body is truly amazing and a credit to the creativity and brilliance of God. However, there is another aspect of humans that is truly amazing. This is the curiosity and ingenuity of people in exploring the world and universe. Whatever the area of study or exploration, people have gone there. No other creature in creation has done this. This is one way that humans are unique and distinct in all of God's creation.

As Job was in the middle of his suffering, he ponders this reality. In Job 28, Job considers how people go to all sorts of lengths to search for things. What captures Job's imagination is how people mine the earth or go places where animals never go. Humans are able to accomplish all sorts of engineering fetes in taming rivers, cutting channels of water, and reshaping mountains. It seems like there is nothing and no end to what mankind attempts to accomplish. All of this is truly amazing.

However, there is one thing that is missing. It does not matter what people do or accomplish. All of what humans do may be truly amazing and unique in all of creation. However, it is meaningless without one critical element. That element is not the human factor, as suggested in a popular recent advertisement for a chemical company. The only element that brings meaning to human accomplishments is wisdom. Without wisdom mankind is engaged in futility.

Job highlights another truly amazing thing about people. Despite the ability to do so many amazing things, people have trouble finding wisdom. It is not just a problem of finding wisdom, but it is something that humans do not really attempt to find. Yet wisdom is the most valuable thing that could ever be discovered or found. It should be pursued with the same or greater zeal than the pursuit of anything else that might be seen as valuable.

If wisdom is so valuable, where is it found and what is it? At the end of this chapter, Job clearly knows where to find wisdom and what it is. The answer is rather simple, wisdom is found in God. As Job describes it, God knows the way to wisdom and is the One who possesses true wisdom. From mankind's perspective, wisdom is found in the fear of God and turning from evil. When people embrace wisdom in this way, then pursuits of life have meaning, direction, and purpose.

This is a truth that we need to remember every day. As pharmacists, we can easily marvel at the accomplishments of modern medicine in finding cures for all sorts of diseases. We can feel empowered in many ways as being instrumental parts of delivering this care to patients. However, if we forget to seek after wisdom in our professional and personal activities it is all meaningless. The differences that we, as Christian pharmacists, provide to our patients is that we fear God, and in so doing begin to know wisdom and have understanding. In doing this, we can begin to meet the true needs of our patients. Let us be sure to consistently include wisdom in all that we do.