

Choose Wisdom Over Wealth

A month ago, Randell concluded his post by saying, "We should choose wisdom over wealth because wealth is the lesser blessing." Dick Ang responded and said, "Don't be impressed with your own (man's) wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil." This made me ask, "Is there such a thing as man's wisdom? Can a man really be wise on his own?"

In order to find an answer to this, I reviewed the definition of wisdom. The Hebrew word is *chokmah*, which means the capacity to understand and the ability to adhere to a set of standards. The Bible says that wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord. Then this means that wisdom is the ability to understand and adhere to the standards of the Lord. It is therefore not to know what is good and evil but it is to do what is good, not evil. If a man can be wise on his own, then that means his wisdom is not based on the standards of the Lord, but of the world. However, 1 Corinthians 3:19 says, "The wisdom of this world is foolishness before God."

Farmers in Bukidnon have complained about the failure of GMO seeds to live out its promise to improve the income of our farmers. The idea of GMO seeds is to increase the farmer's yield even if he plants in nutritionally depleted land. With GMO, you can replace the labor for weeding with herbicides and the need to improve the soil with synthetic fertilizers. But farmers have been telling me that they are not getting the desired yield per hectare because GMO seeds produce big corn husks and small-sized kernels which is opposite of the old traditional seeds. Their savings on labor have been transferred to buying more chemicals and fertilizers. In farming, I have learned using more fertilizers will eventually kill the organisms in the soil further. The natural thing to do, the ways of the Lord, is to feed the soil that will eventually feed the plant. This is how to achieve sustainability. In the present agricultural system, the seed companies earn more but the farmers earn less. Indeed, the wisdom of man is foolishness for all.

I agree with Randell, that we should choose wisdom over wealth because wisdom can create wealth, but wealth cannot buy wisdom. But our wisdom must be based on the standards of the Lord, for it to benefit us. Tama din si Dick, a man should not be proud of his wisdom because he will eventually look foolish to the world.