



# The Good News

March 25th, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 12

***“I did it my way!”***

By Michael McCleary

What does Paul mean when he writes, “*Do not be wise in your own opinion*” (**Rom. 12:16**)? To understand this, we must understand the context of **Rom. 12**. Paul is giving character advice to the Romans throughout the chapter, and in the context of verse 16, Paul says “*Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble.*” We observe that humility and attitude is the context of the warning about being wise in one’s own opinion. Paul is teaching that Christians should all regard one another as brethren, not exalting themselves or encouraging those who exalt themselves. Those who are not humble are arrogant, conceited, and think that they are always right, thus “wise” in their own opinions. This is in contrast to standing on the “opinion” of God.

Two men who fit this contrast are found in **III John 9-12**. John writes Gaius concerning a man, presumably at Gaius’ congregation, named Diotrefes who “*loves to have the preeminence among them*” (he is not humble). We also learn that this man prates against the apostles and their teachings, including the teaching to receive those who preach the Gospel. This man is one who is “wise” in his own opinion. He insists on doing things his way. This is contrasted with a man named Demetrius who has a “*good testimony from all, and from the truth itself.*” Demetrius is a man who does not think of himself higher than he ought; and if the truth itself can attest to his

godliness, then he is a man who is not wise in his own opinion but rather wise in God’s word. He does things God’s way.

In the end, the true test of if we are wise in God’s word is whether we are being true to ourselves. Those who are “wise” in their own opinions are the kind who deceive themselves into thinking that their way is the only way and they are too hard-headed to consider any other way, namely God’s way. Those who are wise in the word of God consider only what God says and they do not hold their own opinions in higher esteem than His word. They are open-minded and willing to change if shown to be in error. We need to examine ourselves and make certain that we are doing things God’s way, and not our way.

*“For what is a man, what has he got?  
If not himself, then he has naught  
To say the things he truly feels and not the  
words of one who kneels  
The record shows I took the blows and did it  
my way!  
Yes, it was my way!”  
-- Frank Sinatra*