

# Being Wise as Serpents

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.”

**Matthew 10:16**

# OUTLINE

Introduction

Background

WISE means “Looking out for danger.”

WISE means “Fleeing from danger.”

WISE means “Employing God’s knowledge.”

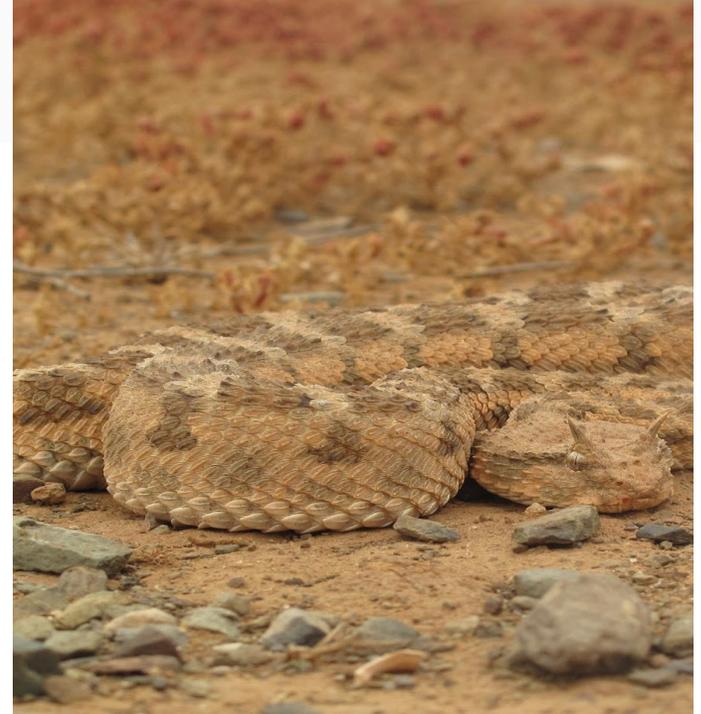
Conclusion

# Introduction

Christ instructs the apostles.

“Ye shall be towards me upright as doves; but, towards the Gentiles, as cunning serpents.”

Fulfilling Christ’s mission requires as balance between the “serpent” and the “dove.”



# Background

Serpents were considered symbols of wisdom.

Wise can mean shrewd, cautious, or wary.

**2 Corinthians 11:3**

**WISE**



# WISE means “being on the lookout for danger.”

Proverbs 22:3- Christians must anticipate evil.

Speech: (We cannot withhold the truth.)

- We should know when to speak.  
Proverbs  
17:28

- We should know how to speak.  
Colossians 4:6



# WISE means “being on the lookout for danger.”

Hearing: (Believe half of what you see and nothing of what you hear).

1 John 4:1 We must recognize false testimony. (Acts 17:11)

Proverbs 14:15 “consider well his steps”



# WISE means “fleeing from danger.”

- Proverbs 14:16: It is always wise to avoid danger.
- To fight “the” good fight, Christians must learn to flee danger, 1 Timothy 6:11.



# WISE means “fleeing from danger.”

- 2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication.

Flee = “make into a habit”



# WISE means employing God's knowledge

- Wisdom is given by God (through Jesus). Luke 21:15
- To convert the lost, Christians must understand people's beliefs (cultural/political).
- Romans 16:19, "...but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

# WISE means employing God's knowledge

- James 3:13- Godly wisdom produces righteousness.
- Being aware and utilizing God's knowledge helps us to be more effective servants.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22

# Conclusion

Today, Godly wisdom can only come from the gospel.

Timothy 3:15 “...holy scriptures which are able to make thee wise.”

**WISE**



# INVITATION

## Child of God?

- ♦ HEAR
- ♦ BELIEVE
- ♦ REPENT
- ♦ CONFESS CHRIST
  - ♦ BE BAPTIZED
- ♦ LIVE FAITHFULLY

## Need to Return?

Repent

Confess to God

Pray Forgiveness

Live Righteously