Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth?

Proverbs 30:4,5

What is his name, and the name of his son?

Tell me if you know!

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (NIV84)

Theme: Surely, you know!

1. That God is Almighty

5

2. That God is your Shield

There are some very smart people in this world. They know far more than I could ever imagine. The well-known phrase stands true—they have forgotten more than I have learned—expect that these people don't forget a thing. The people with the highest IQ's in the world have a score just under 200. But as smart as these people are, they are no match for God for he knows all things.

And as smart as these people are, most of them don't have true wisdom—they don't know or believe in Jesus Christ. And that makes you smarter than all the geniuses in the world. For today I can say to you, Surely, you know! That God is almighty and that God is your shield.

The book of Proverbs was mostly written by Solomon, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God tells us about Solomon was more wise than anyone on the face of the earth— including before or after he lived. But Solomon didn't write our verses for today. They were written by another wise man named, Agur. We don't know much about this man, other than the fact that he was a believer. And that alone makes him wise.

The world thinks that they are pretty wise. You hear people bragging about themselves and how smart they are all the time. They point to their degrees, the many years spent in school, and their places of higher education. And they love to use their reason. If something makes logical sense, than it is true. If it doesn't make sense, than it must be false. Science also comes into play. If Science can prove itHoly Cross, Standish, MI. July 1, 2012 or at least theoretical science can prove it, than it must be true. Just last week, there were headlines that physicists proved God doesn't need to exist in order for the big bang to have happened. So according to some of the wisest people of the world, there is no such thing as God, and he did not create the world in six days. You too may think we are pretty smart. Sure, you realize that you are not the smartest person in the world. But you know a thing or two. You know what you like. You know what you believe. You know what is right and beneficial. And so you know what is best for you. You know what should happen to you in your life.

But what happens in your life is not always what you know should happen. Loved ones get sick. Family members suffer. They die suddenly. You have a financial setback. You lose your job or your health. Perhaps you have lost respectability. People no longer look up to you, but mock and ridicule you. It could be some other personal problem that you are facing. And it isn't what you know should happen to you.

But, you are a smart guy. And you know the remedy to your situation. You can take care if it yourself. You don't need help from anyone. You don't need God to give you a hand. You know what to do and you can get it done alone. So what if your solution is against God's Word. If it takes care of things, that is all that matters. But there are some things we can't possibly take care of on our own. So we end up complaining to God. He is supposed to be taking care of you. He is supposed to love you. And he is supposed to be all powerful. And if he is so powerful and loving, then why are you suffering? So you whine and complain to God. He is not doing what you know he needs to do. What you know you need, God is not doing. What you know you need, God apparently doesn't know. So you tell him what to do. And whine when he still doesn't do it.

We think we know more than God. Arrogance—we are all guilty of it. That is exactly the type of thinking that Agur talks against in our first verse for today. Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? What is the answer to all of these rhetorical questions? No one. No one has done all of these things. No one can do all of these things or know all of these things. This verse knocks us down a little bit. We don't know everything after all.

That's one side to this verse. But there's another. God can do all of these things. God knows all of these things. He is almighty. He is all-powerful. He created the world—or established the ends of the earth with just his voice. We see in our gospel that God has control over the wind of the waves. For all that Jesus had to do was speak a few words and the wind died down the waves stopped crashing.

Jesus knows more than we do. With just his words he can do things that no human can ever do. He is able to do this because he is the one who came down from heaven. He gave up the glories of heaven for the pains of the earth. He came down to live in this sin-filled world for us. And things weren't always pleasant for him. He was betrayed, arrested, and denied. And even though he had done no wrong, he was mocked, flogged, and put to death on a cross. Yet on the cross he took away the guilt of all our sins and he took them upon himself. Then he rose from the dead and assures us that we too will rise from the dead. Then ascended into heaven, where he will remain until he returns again to take us home forever.

Jesus did and does what we cannot. He knows how to do all things. And we don't. What Paul says in 1 Corinthians reigns true, **the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.** Surely, you know this. You know this because the Holy Spirit worked faith into your heart. He brought you out of darkness, out of ignorance, to him and his grace. And he showed you the light of the gospel. The Holy Spirit brought you to believe in something that your mind said is absolutely foolishness. Surely you know that you are not wise. Surely you know that the only way we can be saved is through the gospel of Christ.

You know that we can't gain this wisdom by ourselves. It is contrary to reason. But this wisdom comes only by the Holy Spirit working through the gospel. Yes, we must confess that God knows more than we do. He is allknowing and thus also almighty. But he isn't just almighty, he is also our shield.

Agur says in verse five, **Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.** Notice the contrast between us and God. Think of all the false claims that people have made throughout the years. The so-called experts in their fields. All the smartest people in the world. How many times their words have proven false? You see it all the time, even more so during an election year. When someone does a fact check on the words politicians they are found to be full of lies, exaggerations, and half truths. What about all the claims you have made? All the times you were mistaken, or said something that was incorrect. At other times, you are just plain ignorant or wrong.

Now think about God and his Word. Every single one of his words is tested. And it comes out true every time. People may disagree with God's Word. Evolutionists for example claim that God's Word is full of lies. But there will be a time when they find out that science is false. Years ago there were hundreds of sites listed in the Bible that all the smartest archeologists said did not exist and that the Bible was wrong. Since then many of these have been discovered, and we find out that the Bible is correct after all. As Christians, this doesn't surprise any of us. God's Word is truth. It is true because God spoke it.

And this is important because of what God promises in his Word. If his Word were not true, then we would have no hope for eternal life. We would not be certain if God were telling the truth about the forgiveness that Christ won for us or if he were lying. But God's word is true, it contains no lie. Therefore we know that our sins are forgiven. We can be absolute certain that through Christ we will live with him forever in heaven.

Because God's Word is Truth, we know that what he says is true. And his promises come true. And God also promises to protect you. He tells us that he will always be with you. He tells you that he is your shield. He will guard you against all your enemies. He promises to take care of all those who believe in him. You can find refuge in his arms.

And you have no reason to doubt him. He knows all things. He knows what is best for you. He can do whatever he wants. And he speaks no lies. He never stretches the truth, or speaks half-truths. He is never mistaken or ever wrong.

So you trust in God. Even when everything around you seems to speak to the contrary. Even when your world is turning upside down, When your life is on edge, When everyone has abandoned you. As a Christian, you know that God is always with you. Our reason might tell us otherwise. Perhaps experience has its doubts. Your emotions, your feelings lead us to think that God doesn't care about you. But the Holy Spirit tells you otherwise. Through the gospel he leads you to believe and trust in God and his promises. That is what faith does. It trusts in God to take care of you, when everything screams that he doesn't.

That is the whole point of our text. We often complain about God. We whine about the things that he allows to happen to us. But we don't know everything. God knows all. We are not almighty. But God is. And God promises to protect you. He promises to make all things work out to your good.

So as a Christian, you no longer question God. You don't dare tell him what you should do. Nor don't complain about your life and how he is not taking care of you. No, you simply trust in him. He is God. You are not. He knows more than any of us could ever imagine. Even when it seems as if God doesn't know what he is doing and is purposely making us suffer, you know that he is in control and he will make all things turn out to your benefit.

This verse may knock you down a few notches. You have to admit that you don't know all things. You can't do all things. You must put aside our pride. Through faith, you put aside our doubts. And trust in the almighty God to take care of you. For his Word is battle-tested. And he is almighty. So instead of complaining about God, instead of telling him what he should or should not be doing, you thank him for doing what he promised to do—take care of you. For he knows us and our needs better than we do. How smart are you? If you are smarter than God go ahead and question him. If you have gone up to heaven and come down, if you can control the wind and water, if you have created the world—go ahead and tell God what to do. Through faith, you realize that you are not that wise. But God knows all things, he can do all things, and he promises to use all things as a way to benefit you. So you trust in God. He knows better than you do. So even when everything seems to screaming the contrary, know that God is with you. He is almighty. He is your shield. And through the gospel you can say, "surely, I know this." Amen.