

## A Prayer for Understanding

Rev Gerry Schalk, Emeritus

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. James 1:5*

John Moser was regarded as one of the most learned jurists in Germany. In his youth, however, he was greatly influenced by Voltaire, the Frenchman who is considered one of the greatest adversaries of Christianity. Moser read what Voltaire had written and took Voltaire's ideas to heart.

Moser was a fair-minded man though. He had read Voltaire's criticisms of the Christian faith so he felt conscience-bounded to devote as much time to the reading of the Bible. In St. John's Gospel, Moser made this discovery: "[Jesus said:] 'If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own'" (John 7:17).

"Jesus made the proof so simple," Moser exclaimed. "It would be a shame for a heart thirsting for knowledge not to make a fair trial of it."

Moser set about his Biblical studies in earnest. He studied the teachings of Jesus. He put them to work in his daily life. The words of Jesus came true for him. Moser experienced a spiritual transformation. Soon he set aside the teachings of Voltaire and became a devout Christian. Moser determined that real wisdom found its source in God's Word.

So often we get caught up in our daily stresses, our financial problems, our struggles with difficult decisions. We lack wisdom and understanding, but we fail to turn to our God and His Word. God can and will give us understanding if we truly seek it. God has marvelous ways of opening our hearts and minds to new and better ways of dealing with the difficulties of life. And we remember that God's greatest wisdom is the cross.