

The War of Wisdom and Folly
Proverbs Chapters Eight and Nine
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Chapter eight and nine are the final presentations of the call of wisdom and foolishness that introduce the doctrine for living in Proverbs. We have seen some of these statements before but we learn even more about wisdom and foolishness as they battle over the souls of the simple. In this section, we learn of the worth of wisdom, her love for all people, her origins, and her urgent efforts to save the simple. We see that all are being called down two paths every day: the Path of Life and the Path of Death.

When foolishness calls you, remember the value and origins of Wisdom, and follow her.

Proverbs 8:1-11 Wisdom Calls Out to All People

Vs 1-8 Wisdom wants to be understood. In all parts of the city, she cries out for all people to hear here and benefit from her. Note how she takes initiative and makes knowledge accessible for everyone.

Vs 5 Wisdom's goal is to instruct the simple and reform the fools. Everyone, even people that have hated wisdom in the past, are called by her.

Vs 6-11 Wisdom is completely reliable and nothing twisted comes from her. Obtaining wisdom is better than obtaining wealth. Because wisdom teaches you what is truly valuable (Prov 23:4-5).

Wisdom is not hiding from you, so take time in your day make wisdom a priority!

Proverbs 8:12-21 Wisdom is a Gracious Giver to All

Vs 12 Wisdom goes together with prudence and exposes knowledgeable plans (witty inventions).

Vs 13 The fear of God and Wisdom go together in hating evil, proud arrogance, and words that twist the truth.

Vs 14-16 Wisdom and strength go together (Prov 16:32). There are wicked rulers, but those who try to rule without wisdom will be frustrated. **Vs 17-21** Wisdom loves all who love her and richly rewards all who seek her.

If you want to be strong, wealthy, or successful, seek wisdom first!

Proverbs 8:22-31 The Mystery of Wisdom

Vs 22-29 Wisdom is much older than the heavens and she was God's creative agent in making the world. She is older than mankind (Vs 26) and this is why we do not invent wisdom but discover her. Proverbs 3:19 "The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens."

By Jesus... "were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (Colossians 1:16-17)." And in Jesus... "are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3)." Also, Christ is also called... "the power of God, and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24)."

Vs 30-31 Wisdom is as close to God as a son working with his Father. But Wisdom is also with mankind of earth. Recall that Jesus claimed to be one with the Father (John ch 8) while also frequently calling Himself "son of man" - human (Matt Ch 24).

We must remember that Proverbs is poetry, and lady Wisdom is a figure of speech. Solomon did not actually believe that there was a lady named Wisdom shouting from the roof tops. But the decision to present wisdom as a person was inspired by God for a reason.

Even if Solomon did not fully understand what he was saying, he is portraying Wisdom as a type or picture of Christ. Jesus is the word and wisdom of God in human form. What is true of wisdom in Proverbs is also true of Jesus.

Grasp the fact that Jesus is wisdom! Jesus calls to all. Jesus is gracious to all. Jesus protects and guides those who rely on Him. Jesus is the only one who can give you strength, wealth, or success.

Proverbs 8:32-9:18 The Two Ways

Wisdom calls out so urgently because folly calls out as well. And every son of man will go down one of the two ways: the Way of Life, or the Way of Death.

8:35-36 Wisdom, life, and favor with God all go together. And foolishness, death, and self-destruction also go together. Remember that all sin is self-destruction (Prov 1:18).

9:1-6 Again Wisdom Calls Out

Vs 1-3 She does everything she can to help people see the worth of wisdom and seeks out students who can enjoy her riches. **Vs 4-6** Wisdom passionately pleads for the simple to take her path.

9:6-12 The Essential Difference Between Wisdom And Folly

Vs 7-8 The scorner and the wicked are fools because they hate instruction. But the wise love rebuke or correction. The wise are teachable, but the fools think they already know!

Vs 9-12 Because of humility, the wise are able to learn, draw close to God, and prosper. Their wisdom defines the character of their life, just as the scorner's life is marked by foolishness, estrangement from God, and frustration.

9:13-18 Foolishness Also Calls Out

Vs 13-16 Foolishness is loud, dull, and empty. But she calls people just as wisdom does (8:1-3). In 9:4 and 9:16 both ladies are searching for the simple. Wisdom seeks to make him wise and foolishness seeks to drag him to the grave.

Vs 17 Foolishness tempts the simple to a feast just as wisdom does (9:2). **Vs 18** But while wisdom calls her guests to strength, honor, and rewards, foolishness leads her guests to the place of the dead and the depths of hell.

When foolishness calls you, remember the value and origins of Wisdom, and follow her.