

Walking in Wisdom

Proverbs 8: 12-21

Our text comes from a proverb written by King Solomon. Wisdom is synonymous with Solomon. While he lived upon the earth, he was known and revered for the great wisdom he possessed. Few, if any, have rivaled the wisdom of Solomon. We have several of Solomon's proverbs recorded for us in Scripture, but even the Bible does not contain all of his proverbs. [1 Kings 4:32 – And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.](#)

The first seven chapters of Proverbs reveal the wisdom Solomon sought to share with his son. Chapters eight and nine serve as a culmination of the words Solomon tried to instill within the heart of his son. Some view chapter eight as the most difficult to discern within the entire book. In order to better understand, one must realize that wisdom is personified in these verses. Solomon gives voice to wisdom, as if she were a living, breathing instructor, seeking to impart truth.

As we prepare to embark on a journey into a New Year, I can think of nothing more needful than wisdom. She is needed in our everyday lives, and in every circumstance we face. Wisdom will guide us in truth, and equip us to follow the course God has set for us. Let's examine the [aspects](#) of wisdom revealed in the text as we consider: [Walking in Wisdom](#).

I. The Basis of Wisdom (12-13) – Here Solomon discussed the foundational aspects of wisdom. He spoke of:

A. Her Discretion (12) – [I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.](#) She dwells with prudence – *possessing common sense and good judgment; having the ability to foresee the snares of life, while avoiding obstacles and pitfalls.* No doubt we need those of wisdom, dwelling in prudence in our day.

➤ Her knowledge speaks of *keen insight*, that which is *obtained through the Person of wisdom, Christ the Lord*. Genuine wisdom comes from an intimate relationship with Christ, while growing in His grace. Such knowledge allows us to avoid the witty inventions, or *wicked plots and devices* of the enemy and those who promote his agenda.

B. Her Devotion (13) – [The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.](#) The fear of the LORD is essential to wisdom. [Prov.9:10 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.](#) She affirms her

devotion to the LORD through hatred for that which is contrary to Him and His divine nature. She hates pride, arrogance, an evil way or course of life, and a fraudulent and perverse mouth.

- You will have to agree that such attitudes are prevalent in society today. We are surrounded by pride, arrogance, those who walk according to the ways of the world, and fraudulent and perverse speech. We are certainly not to hate those who exhibit such behavior, but we can have no fellowship with such attitudes and walk with the Lord. We must repress such desires within our own hearts, forsaking them for the ways of righteousness. This is contrary to human nature, but required to possess wisdom and walk in her ways.

II. The Benefit of Wisdom (14-16) – Solomon sought to teach his son the great benefit and value of wisdom as well. He spoke of:

A. Her Instruction (14) – *Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.*

Godly wisdom is the source of counsel and sound wisdom. She will guide you in the ways of God, according to His Word. Obtaining wisdom through fear of the Lord will never result in one being led contrary to the ways of God. Those who walk according to the lusts of the flesh and desires of the heart are not walking in wisdom. As we survey those around us, sadly few are walking in wisdom in our generation. Genuine wisdom is not sought today. We live in a pleasure driven society, one that encourages and promotes any activity that appeals to the flesh. We are counseled to “follow our heart.” That is dangerous counsel to say the least. *Jer.17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* We must follow godly wisdom and never allow the desire of our heart to guide our path.

- Wisdom is understanding and the possessor of strength. She provides necessary insight to the issues of life, along with the courage to make tough decisions and do what is right. I think you would agree that we need wisdom today!

B. Her Influence (15-16) – *By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. [16] By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.* Solomon knew the kings and princes of the earth who ruled and judged fairly were influenced by wisdom. Those who possessed wisdom would make their decisions and judgments based on wisdom. Wisdom is essential for one to rule and govern efficiently and properly. Solomon reigned in wisdom and knew firsthand of her influence.

- I fear we are dealing with the unwanted consequences of years of worldly leadership that lacked or refused wisdom. I am convinced one cannot properly deal with and govern a society

apart from genuine wisdom. We know this is obtained solely from the Lord. Until those in places of authority seek godly wisdom, our world will continue to deteriorate in moral decline.

- There is coming a day when the King of glory will rule and reign in complete wisdom and righteousness. [Isaiah 11:1-5](#) – [And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:](#) ^[2] [And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;](#) ^[3] [And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:](#) ^[4] [But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.](#) ^[5] [And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.](#) I am thankful I submitted to my Sovereign in salvation and have been accepted of the Father through Him!

III. The Beauty of Wisdom (17-21) – Solomon also spoke of the beauty found within wisdom.

Notice:

A. Her Love (17) – [I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.](#) Wisdom revealed her love for those who loved her. She was not ashamed or unwilling to return the affection. She was available and easily found of those who had a genuine desire to fellowship with her. She is a committed and faithful partner to those who choose to seek her. Solomon reveals – *when you make a commitment to her, she makes a commitment to you. You will receive the full and faithful benefit of her devotion. She will not leave you; she will not let you down. Wisdom is constant, never-changing, and dependable.* ⁱ She will always reciprocate devotion.

B. Her Legacy (18-19) – [Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.](#) ^[19] [My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.](#) Much that the world seeks is temporal and apt to change, but wisdom has traits that will endure – those that can be treasured and passed on to future generations. While she compares her attributes to the riches and treasures of life, she knows they cannot compare to her value.

- Few see the benefit of real wisdom today, that which leads in the ways of righteousness. I will admit that I don't have much in the way of riches and treasures of this world, but I do have a relationship with my Lord that is eternal. I am safe and secure in Him, guarded and guided by the wisdom He provides! [Matt.6:19-20](#) – [Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:](#) ^[20] [But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.](#)

C. Her Loyalty (20-21) – I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: ^[21]

That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. Wisdom remains faithfully committed to those who seek her. She will not abandon them in the way. She is loyal to the ways of righteousness and always leads those who seek her toward the Lord. She is not stingy or selfish with her wealth, gladly sharing her abundance with those who desire her. Those who seek her riches are promised to receive them in full measure.

- Many seek the treasures of life over wisdom, and some of them obtain their desires. However, those earthly treasures came at the expense of wisdom. Those who seek wisdom will be blessed of the Lord, and enjoy His benefits along with wisdom. I would never imply that wisdom will always lead to a nice bank account, but I do know it pays to seek the Lord. He will honor those who seek Him, and His blessings will endure. I may not have much materially to leave behind, but I can leave the wisdom I have obtained and a testimony of faithfulness to the Lord. Those are treasures that money cannot buy, and they will endure. Seek the benefit of wisdom. Obtain all you can and share it liberally with those you love. You will find joy in investing in others, and they will benefit from your kindness.

Conclusion: I am thankful for the wisdom I have received, and yet I understand my need for more. The days in which we live require wisdom. We need wisdom to guide our lives and guard our hearts. We need wisdom as we strive to serve the Lord and live according to His divine will. Wisdom is available in Christ for all who desire it. Come to Him and draw from His deep well. If you are unsaved, I urge you to respond by faith to His invitation for salvation!

ⁱ Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Proverbs.