

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 8
7/25/12

Why Should We Live by God's Wisdom?

Proverbs 8:1-36

1Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? 2On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; 3beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: 4“To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. 5You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. 6Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. 7My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. 8All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. 9To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge. 10Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. 12“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. 13To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. 14Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power. 15By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; 16by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth. 17I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. 18With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. 19My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. 20I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, 21bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full. 22“The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. 24When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; 25before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, 26before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. 27I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, 28when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, 29when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. 30Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, 31rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. 32“Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. 33Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. 34Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. 35For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD. 36But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.”

THEME: Scripture urges us to receive God's divine wisdom and supplies us with compelling reasons to do so.

PURPOSE: To exhort the hearers to heed the appeal of Scripture and live by God's divine wisdom.

OUTLINE:

I. We Should Live by God's Divine Wisdom
...Because It is the Truth (Proverbs 8:6-9,12-17)

II. We Should Live by God's Divine Wisdom
...Because It will Bring Us Blessing (Proverbs 8:10-11,18-21)

Introduction

In the late summer of 1992 Hurricane Andrew destroyed thousands of homes in South Florida. In one area the wreckage looked like a war zone. But in the midst of that wreckage and debris one house remained standing, still firmly anchored to its foundation. A curious reporter asked the homeowner why his house had managed to survive the storm and had not been blown away. This is what the homeowner said, "I built this house according to the Florida State building code. ...I was told that a house built according to code could withstand a hurricane—and it did." That's the key: you have to build the house according to the building code—and when you do, it really works! (*Our Daily Bread*, 3/2/94)

Jesus told us the very same thing with regard to our spiritual lives: Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. (Matthew 7:24-25)

Here in Proverbs 8 this same Biblical truth is being expressed in Old Testament terms: let us now consider two reasons why we should live by God's divine wisdom.

PROVERBS 8:1

Wisdom's call is contrasted to the call of the immoral woman in chapter 7. Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who guides us (8:1-13) and makes us succeed (8:14-21). Wisdom was present at the Creation and works with the Creator (8:22-31). God approves of those who listen to Wisdom's counsel (8:32-35). Those who hate wisdom love death (8:36).

Wisdom should affect every aspect of our entire life, from beginning to end. Be sure to open all corners of your life to God's direction and guidance.

PROVERBS 8:10-11

Wisdom in Proverbs is radically affectionate. Being wise requires that we love the right kinds of things. In particular two different objects of affection are contrasted—love of Lady Wisdom and love of Lady Folly (Proverbs 9:1-18). In the course of Proverbs' teaching, material riches such as silver and gold frequently are used as examples of relative goods that we must forgo for the sake of something better (e.g., Proverbs 15:17; 16:8, 16, 19, 32; 17:1; 19:1, 22; 22:1; 28:6). That is, we learn that growing wise often requires us to value and desire other things more highly than wealth and material blessings. For example, in Proverbs 3:13-16 we see material wealth being used in comparison to other valuables (Proverbs 8:10-11). We are told that knowledge, understanding and wisdom are more valuable than treasures such as silver and gold. Ironically, verse 16 actually concludes that wisdom is better than wealth because wisdom brings "riches and honor," suggesting that the wise person will enjoy better treasures than the wealth of the world.

PROVERBS 8:13

The more a person fears and respects God, the more he or she will hate evil. Love for God and love for sin cannot coexist. Harboring secret sins means that you are tolerating evil within yourself. Make a clean break with sin and commit yourself completely to God.

PROVERBS 8:22-31

God says wisdom is primary and fundamental. It is the foundation on which all life is built. Paul and John may have alluded to some of Solomon's statements about wisdom to describe Christ's presence at the creation of the world (Colossians 1:15-17; 2:2, 3; Revelation 3:14).