

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study #2

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Key Text: Proverbs 8:1-21

Sermon Date: Sept 30, 2007

Whose Call Will You Respond To?

Have you experienced being at a fair or carnival – walking through the crowds of people and being barraged by the “barkers” enticing you with their clever sales pitches to come over to their tent or booth? They do their best to invite you to play their game or see their show, with promises of seeing amazing things or winning “priceless” prizes worth ten times more than the cost to play their game. In the spirit of fun, we try some of them – and even win a prize now and then.

On a more serious note, walking through life is something like walking through a fairground with its many competing barkers. Lots of things “call out to us” and try to entice us to turn their way. Things like temptation and folly promise us prizes that we only later learn are painfully short-lived. Greed and envy share appealing promises as well. Fortunately, God adds another barker to this mix. In the book of Proverbs, we learn that something called “wisdom” calls out to us as we walk through life, offering us rewards more precious than silver, gold, or rubies! But first we must learn to recognize her voice from among all the others. And then we must respond by choosing to turn her way.

How about you – are you willing to respond to wisdom’s call?

These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact studieditor@southshorebaptist.com

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Bible Study:

1. Read this week's key Bible passage and related texts, and use this chart below to note your observations and questions.

Scripture	Observations & Questions
<p>Proverbs 8:1-21</p> <p>¹ Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?</p> <p>² On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she take her stand;</p> <p>³ beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud:</p> <p>⁴ "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.</p> <p>⁵ You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.</p> <p>⁶ Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.</p> <p>⁷ My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.</p> <p>⁸ All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.</p> <p>⁹ To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.</p> <p>¹⁰ Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,</p> <p>¹¹ for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.</p> <p>¹² "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.</p> <p>¹³ To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.</p> <p>¹⁴ Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.</p>	

Scripture	Observations & Questions
<p>¹⁵ By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just;</p> <p>¹⁶ by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.</p> <p>¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.</p> <p>¹⁸ With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.</p> <p>¹⁹ My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver.</p> <p>²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice,</p> <p>²¹ bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.</p> <p>Proverbs 9:1-6</p> <p>¹ Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.</p> <p>² She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.</p> <p>³ She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.</p> <p>⁴ "Let all who are simple come in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.</p> <p>⁵ "Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.</p> <p>⁶ Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.</p> <p>Proverbs 13:14-16</p> <p>¹⁴ The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.</p> <p>¹⁵ Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.</p> <p>¹⁶ Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from page 3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Look and Listen Closer:

4. What is wisdom as described here in Proverbs? Write a definition.

5. Do you agree that this wisdom is more precious than gold, silver and rubies, as the writer tells us in verses 8:10 & 11? What makes it so valuable?

6. What do you observe about where wisdom is calling from? Compare your observations with the woman of Folly described in Proverbs 9:13-18 – what are the similarities and differences in their calls? How is this significant to us?

7. In verse 4, wisdom is portrayed as “raising my voice to all mankind”. Is wisdom available to all? How can wisdom be gained by even the simple and the foolish? (consider, for instance, verses 8:32-36)

8. What other desirable traits which are associated with wisdom are mentioned in Proverbs 8:12-21? List as many as you can find.

9. In verse 8:21, wisdom is described as “bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full.” What does this mean? (Is it saying we will gain riches and wealth when we seek and find wisdom?)

10. Look up 1 Cor 1:24, 30 and Isa 11:2. What is the relationship between Jesus and wisdom?

11. Proverbs 1:1-2 clearly tells us that the proverbs in this book are intended as a source of wisdom. One way to ensure we fully receive this wisdom is by working to remember some proverbs. Therefore, during each of the weeks of this Proverbs Bible study series, we will select one portion of Scripture and invite you to memorize it. This week’s selection is Proverbs 8:10-11. This first memory verse has built right into it some reminders of the benefits of paying attention to God’s instruction such as by committing his Word to memory. Cut out the box below and put it somewhere that will remind you to work on memorizing it. Ask someone to test you. Make copies of it. Ask God to help you. Do whatever it takes. And you will be richly blessed.

The Value of Wisdom

Proverbs 8:10-11

Choose my instruction instead of silver,
knowledge rather than choice gold,
for wisdom is more precious than rubies,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Wisdom Calls for a Response from Us

12. What can you do this week to apply or respond to something you learned or experienced in doing this study?

Proverbs 8:4 tells us that Wisdom is calling out to all mankind. 1 Cor 1:24 and 30 tell us that Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God and the wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. These verses show that we can receive God's wisdom by meeting Jesus Christ, accepting Him as our Lord and Savior and studying his Word to know him better day by day. If you do not know Jesus as your savior, take time to receive him now. Like Wisdom, Jesus too is calling us all, as we sing in the old hymn:

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling

*Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See on the portals He's waiting and watching, watching for you
and for me. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed
not His mercies, mercies for you and for me? Time is now
fleeting; the moments are passing, passing for you and for me.
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming, coming for you
and for me. O for the wonderful love He has promised,
promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, He has
mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home;
come home. You who are weary come home. Earnestly,
tenderly Jesus is calling, calling "O Sinner Come Home".*