



What Is Wisdom?



Wisdom Defined

The 66 books of the Bible can be sorted into various groups according to content and purpose. There are history books, letters or epistles, gospels, prophetic books, etc. Often the

books of Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Proverbs are referred to as “Wisdom Literature.” (Psalms is sometimes included.) These books share the common objective of instructing the believer how to live wisely. Here the Lord teaches us how to take basic head knowledge and put it into practice. The result is wisdom, godly wisdom. Who can better teach us how to apply the knowledge that we have learned about life in this universe than the Lord? These books provide hundreds of lessons in how to make the best choices in life.

It is not surprising that the man chosen to write much of this wisdom literature is the man whom God blessed with a special measure of wisdom. Solomon is the author of Song of Solomon, most of Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes. Here we find a portion of the 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs that are attributed to Solomon.

Blessings of Wisdom

Solomon lays out the importance of wisdom and knowledge in his introduction to the book of Proverbs: “*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—let*

the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Here Solomon uses several words that pertain to the Christian’s insight into life. *Wisdom (hokmah)* is often related to the idea of having a skill. A lump of clay may be a necessary part of a great piece of art, yet it is the skill of the sculptor who shapes the clay that makes it become something special. Likewise wisdom is the skill we are given by God that shows us how to apply the knowledge he has provided.

The words *discipline, guidance, and discretion* relate to how we apply our wisdom in the proper use of right and wrong. Those who believe in the Lord can recognize those things that are pleasing to him. Joseph is a wonderful example of such discipline. When he was tempted by Potiphar’s wife to sin, his response was “*How can I do such wickedness and sin against my God?*” In the short term, Joseph’s action led to prison. In the long term it led to great blessings. Joseph took the path of wisdom.

Daniel is another great example of using godly wisdom. As we see his incredible story unfold, we notice that Daniel has the ability to carefully navigate through each circumstance. When dreams haunted the king, the Babylonian “wise men” relied on useless books and traditions while Daniel sought divine knowledge that was given to him by the Lord. Daniel praised God with the words, “*I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: you have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you*” (Daniel 2:23).

Insight is another blessing that we receive through godly wisdom. Insight is defined as the ability to see deeply into a person or situation. As

Christians, God gives us the ability to understand and navigate in life. True insight goes beyond head knowledge. It takes a look behind the curtain so we may handle any situation in a godly way.

Solomon addresses his introduction to both the simple or young (immature), and the wise (mature) individual.

Comment: What does it mean to say that fools despise wisdom?

The Source of True Wisdom

“When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given [in response to the two prostitutes claiming the same infant], they held the king in awe because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice” (1 Kings 3:28). It is impossible to read the account of Solomon’s special gift and not realize that the source of his great knowledge of the Lord and his creation, and the wisdom to use such knowledge, came directly from God. Solomon echoes that sentiment when he writes in Ecclesiastes 2:26, *“To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness.”* In telling us the attributes of wisdom, James also mentions its origin, *“The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere” (James 3:17).* For a special discourse on the origin of wisdom, read Job 28:12-28. Job begins by asking where can wisdom be found, and again a few verses later he repeats himself by asking where does wisdom come from? Job ends the discourse by using the very same words that Solomon used in Proverbs: *The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom.*

Where does the unbelieving world look for the source of wisdom?

The World’s Wisdom

How can Solomon close his introductory remarks in Proverbs by claiming that fools (the ungodly world) despise wisdom and instruction? Don’t we live in an age where people possess great amounts of knowledge? A study was once conducted called the *Knowledge Doubling Curve* by Buckminster Fuller. In it he claimed that up until 1900 human knowledge doubled every century. By the end of WW II it was doubling every 25 years.

Today human knowledge is doubling at the rapid rate of every year. Future estimates are that total knowledge will eventually double every 12 hours. Our educational system is focused on loading as much knowledge into the minds of our children as it can. Several countries now provide “cram” schools where students are educated up to 18 hours a day so their minds can be crammed with information that will help them achieve future success.

Sadly, the world looks for knowledge and tries to pass it off for wisdom. Satan loves to have everyone looking for wisdom in all the wrong places. That happened already in Eden when we read, *“When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it” (Genesis 3:6).* Unfortunately, that tree gave them knowledge between right and wrong, but it did not give them godly wisdom. Wisdom apart from God’s will is from the devil.

Isn’t it interesting to notice that as the world’s knowledge increases, so its discernment of right and wrong deteriorates? Accumulation of facts will always be unproductive without discernment and insight into the Lord’s ways. Consider these perspectives that we see today.

- Man’s wisdom has led him to see as fact that a big bang billions of years ago led to a single celled organism that mutated into the complex life forms we have today. God’s children view it otherwise. They see the creation through God’s words and eyes.
- Man’s wisdom considers humans as members of the animal family. God’s wisdom teaches us that there is a soul that lives inside of every person.
- Man’s wisdom tells us that true happiness can be found in sex, intelligence, riches, prestige, and power. The believer knows that real happiness is only found in the loving sacrifice of the Savior.
- Millions of supposedly intelligent people believe they can find the answers for the future in their daily horoscopes. Believers know that God holds the future in his hands.
- Man’s wisdom claims that a fetus is only a mass of tissue that can be discarded whenever one wishes. God’s people realize that life is precious because he

has breathed life into every living human, and he alone has the power to take that life.

So where has the world's vast amount of intelligence taken it? In Romans Paul states, "Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22). Isaiah 5:21 says, "Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight." Proverbs 18:2 says, "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in his own opinions." Paul writes again in 1 Corinthians 3:19, "The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: 'He catches the wise in their craftiness', and again, 'The LORD knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile.'" Without divine wisdom, knowledge is inadequate, useless, immoral, flawed, erroneous, and even dangerous. God goes so far as to call those great worldly scholars fools, an applicable description since they know not the Lord. "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" (Psalm 53:1).

The great storehouse of knowledge contained in the minds of this world's experts, elite, and educated can't begin to compare with the wisdom of a child of God. Such blindness causes the world to walk through life in total darkness while God's people enjoy the blessing of the Light found in the pages of his Word. "The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble" (Proverbs 4:18,19).

Comment on this statement: The believer sees situations from two sides, the earthly side and the heavenly side. The unbeliever sees situations only from the earthly angle.

The Wisdom of God's People

Just as God granted Solomon a special gift that included knowledge, insight, discernment, understanding and wisdom, so God provides that same blessing to everyone who confesses Jesus as Savior, for in Christ is "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3). And again, Christ is "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:24). As children of God, each of us is given the tools to approach any situation in life, be it a job change, choosing a marriage partner, dealing with a wayward family

member, nearing death, or simple daily decisions. We can be confident knowing that God will provide us with the knowledge and wisdom to successfully handle any situation. "To the man who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness" (Ecclesiastes 2:26). And when we face those especially difficult times when we feel most vulnerable, we should follow the direction of James who writes, "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).

At what age should we begin teaching our children godly wisdom?

The Fear of the Lord Is the Beginning

The recurring theme throughout the wisdom literature is that the source and foundation of true wisdom is found in the fear of the Lord. These words are repeated in Proverbs 9:10; 15:33; Job 28:28 and Psalm 111:10. Such fear does not mean that we should be frightened with the judgments of God, but rather that we revere his Word, that we respect his ways and wants, and that we give him the love and honor that is due him. Moses said it well in Deuteronomy 10:12, 20 and 21: "And now, O Israel, what does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. . . Hold fast to him and take your oaths in His name. He is your praise; he is your God."

How is the Christian's "fear of God" different from the godly fear displayed by heathen religions?

Song of Solomon

This short eight chapter book was written by Solomon as we see in chapter 1:1, "Solomon's Song of Songs", and in five other locations in the book. This book was likely written during Solomon's younger years, and is possibly the first of his three books in the Bible. Song of Solomon is very unique among the other 66 books in that it reads like a play with different actors speaking their parts: Solomon, Solomon's bride, the Shulamite, the daughters of Jerusalem, and the brothers of the bride. Although Shulam is never mentioned in Scripture, some speculate that perhaps the young bride from that city was really Naamah the Ammonitess as mentioned in

2 Chronicles 12:13. “King Rehoboam established himself firmly in Jerusalem and continued as king. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the LORD had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite.” She may well have been Solomon’s first and only true love. (See Ecclesiastes 9:9.) Here we see the beauty that can be found in a God pleasing marriage. This book presents the opposite of the sin and corruption that we see in today’s worldly marriages. Satan’s purpose is to destroy the beauty of marriage and the joy of the family.

Although this book presents a sensitive subject in the sensual love between the bride and groom and should best be understood by a mature spiritual mind, there are some parallels that we can draw between the great love that exists between Christ (the Heavenly Bridegroom) and the redeemed believers in His church (the Bride). In Ephesians 5:22-33 we can see how such great love manifests itself.

Discussion: Read Psalm 45, the “wedding” psalm. What similarities in subject can you find between the psalm and the Song of Solomon? Can you see a parallel between the last verse of Song of Solomon and Revelation 22:20,21 showing Christ returning for his bride?

Ecclesiastes

The book of Ecclesiastes is usually attributed to the writings of Solomon because of the introduction which reads: “The words of the Teacher, son of David, king of Jerusalem” (Ecclesiastes 1:1). The name of the book reflects the idea of preaching or teaching, as the author refers to himself as the teacher (or preacher in the KJV) seven times in his book. It is thought that Solomon wrote this book near the end of his reign because it contains the perspective of a man who had lived a good life and now asks what he has gained from it. Perhaps by this time in Solomon’s life, he had seen the folly of the false idols he had set up and the many marriages that had negatively influenced his reign. It seems in this book that he has come back to his senses and to the knowledge that the Lord must still be the center of one’s life. As we read through

this book, we begin to see how depressed and useless the unbeliever’s world really is. In fact the term *meaningless* (*vanity* in the KJV) is used 37 times in this book. “‘Meaningless! Meaningless!’ says the Teacher. ‘Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless’” (Ecclesiastes 1:2).

In Proverbs, Solomon extolls the virtues of wisdom and knowledge, yet in Ecclesiastes he says they only bring much grief. “*With much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge, the more grief*” (Ecclesiastes 1:18). The difference is that in Proverbs, Solomon is speaking about the wisdom and knowledge that comes from “*the fear of the LORD.*” In Ecclesiastes he reflects on the sorrows of chasing after this world’s empty wisdom. Throughout the book’s twelve chapters one senses the struggles Solomon personally experienced as he searched for anything that would give meaning to his life. Although blessed beyond what we can imagine with both riches and wisdom, Solomon tries to find purpose in life by exploring the realms of something new, worldly wisdom, hard work, pleasures, laughter, art, agriculture, alcohol, accumulating property, riches and great wealth. Sadly, they all offer only brief worldly pleasure. Everything that the world holds dear “*under the sun*” (which is mentioned 28 times) offers nothing lasting.

Yet Solomon does not leave the reader without an answer to finding peace and joy in this life. “*Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). In Christ all may find contentment and peace in this life. In Christ, those who possess the true knowledge and wisdom of God can appreciate the hope of eternal life and the glories of a future in heaven.

Discussion: Read together Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and discuss its relevance today. Find a favorite verse somewhere in the book and memorize it.



Proverbs: Part 1

Introduction

“How to” books are very popular these days. Just browse through the large number of them in bookstores. You will find “how to” books in a



variety of categories from diet and weight loss, to home and car repair. As helpful as some of these books may be, not one of them provides any motivation for actually doing anything. If only there were a book that

provided both direction and motivation.

We have such a book in the Bible. It is the Book of Proverbs. All the books of the Bible are practical and timely. Proverbs is outstanding!

The Book of Proverbs along with Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes is called “*wisdom literature*.” It is wisdom, or knowledge, born in God’s love. It is the love God has had for us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the highest fulfillment of biblical wisdom. Paul writes that Christ is the “*wisdom of God*” (See 1 Corinthians 1:24). Paul also tells Timothy that the Holy Scriptures make us “*wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus*” (See 2 Timothy 3:15).

God’s wisdom in Christ for our salvation motivates us to follow the wisdom God has given for our life in Christ. Following God’s Word that is a “*lamp for our feet and a light for our path*” (Psalm 119:105), we appreciate the highest value of a godly life and recognize the fatal results of an ungodly life.

Proverbs shows the child of God wisdom for daily living. Only a child of God will appreciate this knowledge and use it. Our motivation is “the fear of the Lord,” our faith in our Savior Jesus Christ. The

Book of Proverbs does not have many specific gospel verses. Yet the entire book is an enumeration of the good fruit we bear through the Word of Christ. The Word of Christ (gospel) is the means of grace the Holy Spirit has used to attach each of us to the true Vine. Martin Luther called Proverbs “a book of good works.”

Where did all this wisdom come from? Newly crowned King Solomon asked the Lord for wisdom so he could carry out his responsibilities in a God pleasing manner. (See 1 Kings 3:5-12.) Isn’t that our daily desire? The Book of Proverbs is Solomon’s record that God answered his prayer. It is Solomon’s gift to the church of all generations that we might know true wisdom and put that wisdom to use in all areas of our sanctification.

Understanding a Proverb

As one pages through the Book of Proverbs, one notices that it is filled with short statements, many unrelated to the one that follows. Some have called these pithy statements, but that seems to trivialize the great importance that can be attached to these wise sayings. The book is really considered as a prime example of Hebrew poetry, so there is not only wisdom displayed, but the statements are presented in a very artistic way. An attribute of poetry is its brevity and wise use of the language. Thus the reader would do well to read Proverbs not as a novel or history book, but as a book in which each statement should be contemplated and considered in and of itself.

Not all proverbs apply to all situations. “*All hard work brings a profit*” is the first part of Proverbs 14:23. We agree in general that work and profit can be related, but there may be times when hard work will produce no profit. However when we complete the Proverb with the words, “*but mere talk*

leads only to poverty,” we can better see the general truth presented here.

The type of poetry used in the Old Testament is called parallelism. The word *proverb* comes from the Hebrew word that means *parallel* or *similar*. It describes the kind of instruction that comes by comparison. This comparison is made between the first and second phrases of the proverb. (Scholars call each phrase a cola and the complete statement as a colon.) The book of Proverbs makes use of three types of parallelism.

Synonymous Parallelism (“A” that is to say “B”)

This type of parallelism presents cola A and then repeats the same thought in cola B.

*“A fool’s mouth is his undoing,
and (that is to say) his lips are a snare to his soul”*
(Proverbs 18:7).

Antithetical Parallelism (“A” is the opposite of “B”)

Antithetical parallelism presents colas that are opposite. These usually contain the word *but*.

*“He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son,
but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful
son”* (Proverbs 10:5).

Synthetic Parallelism (“A” therefore “B”)

This this type of parallelism gives a statement and then expands upon it.

*“If a man curses his father or mother,
his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness”*
(Proverbs 20:20).

Better-Than (Better “A” than “B”)

A few of the proverbs show the relationship between a godly action as compared to a worldly action.

*“Better a little with the fear of the LORD
than great wealth with turmoil”* (Proverbs 15:16).

Although the reader will encounter various other devices to present poetical proverbs, for the most part Solomon’s proverbs attempt to distinguish

between the ways of God and the ways of man, always providing a choice for us.

Proverbs in the New Testament

The New Testament quotes the book of Proverbs about twenty times. However, new proverbs are also spoken in the New Testament. The word *proverb* is synonymous with *parable*, the often used picture that Jesus presented to his followers. In addition to the parables, there are many examples in the New Testament where speakers used a proverb to make their point. Some examples include:

*“If a blind man leads a blind man,
both will fall into a pit”* (Matthew 15:14).

*“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle
than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven”*
(Matthew 19:24).

*“If a house is divided against itself,
that house cannot stand”* (Mark 3:25).

Do you feel that the poetic aspect of the proverbs adds to their enjoyment or effectiveness?

Divisions in Proverbs

The book of Proverbs can be divided into seven sections.

Proverbs 1:1-7 provides an introduction.

Proverbs 1:8-Chapter 9 contains lessons written by Solomon and addressed to “my son”.

Proverbs 10:1-22:16 includes 375 of Solomon’s 3000 written proverbs. (Ref. 1 Kings 4:32)

Proverbs 22:17-24:34 is attributed to the sayings of the wise and more sayings of the wise.

Proverbs 25-29 contains more of Solomon’s proverbs collected by the men of Hezekiah.

Proverbs 30 are the sayings of Agur.

Proverbs 31 are the sayings of King Lemuel. (Note: Although some suggest Agur was Solomon, it is more likely that the writer may have been an acquaintance of Solomon’s. Regarding King Lemuel, there is some confusion, since King Lemuel is only mentioned this once in Scripture and, in fact,

there never was a king in Judah or Israel named Lemuel. One possible suggestion is that King Lemuel [meaning *belonging to God*] may in fact be another name for King Solomon, given him by his mother Bathsheba, however this is conjecture.)

The Ten Lessons (Chapters 1-9)

The book of Proverbs begins with ten discourses, lessons, or sermons. Each lesson begins with a salutation to Solomon's son or sons, however, these could well be applied to all students of the Scriptures.

Proverbs 1:1-7 (Read)

Here Solomon sets forth the purpose of the book: to attain wisdom that will lead to a God-pleasing life.

First Lesson (Read Proverbs 1:8-33)

Solomon says these instructions come from a father and a mother who are instructing their children. (8,9) Respect for parents is vital to learning wisdom. Verse 10-19 provides general instruction in life's dealings with others. In verses 20 and 21 wisdom takes on the attributes of a woman crying out to all who will listen. Her message of warnings for the foolish (unbeliever) continues to the end of the chapter.

Second Lesson (Read Proverbs 2:1-22)

This is the section of the "If-Thens". Note the "ifs" in the first four verses. These are answered with the "thens" in verse 5ff, 9ff, 12ff, and 16ff. If we seek godly wisdom blessings will follow. (Ref. Matthew 6:33; Colossians 2:3.) Note that the Hebrew term for adulteress (16) means a stranger or a foreigner. Verses 20-22 give the conclusion of the second lesson.

Third Lesson (Read Proverbs 3:1-35)

This lesson deals with examples of how to live a good and god-fearing life. Notice that Solomon tells us to wear love and faithfulness so others may notice our Christ-like ways. Verses 5 and 7 teach us that we are to follow God's ways, not our own. The lesson continues to instruct us on how to honor the Lord with our gifts, and how to accept his loving discipline. These all lead to further wisdom, which

translates into true happiness and peace. Note the tree of life mentioned here (which is also mentioned in three more Proverbs.) This reference takes us back to the peace and joy of Eden that will again be ours in heaven. Verses 21-26 show the results of wisdom working in our lives. Verses 27-32 are more instructions presented in a negative fashion. The chapter concludes (33-35) with three contrasts between God's people and wicked unbelievers.

Fourth Lesson (Read Proverbs 4:1-9)

In this lesson we see Solomon reflecting on his life as a child in David and Bathsheba's house. He reflects on what his father taught him. No doubt David's influence on Solomon had much to do with his eventual request of God for wisdom when he became king. David held fast to his life of wisdom until he died. How sad to see that Solomon rejected that wisdom in his later years. Note the crown mentioned in verse 9; similar to the crown of righteousness presented to God's children in heaven.

Do you think Solomon respected his parents?

Explain

Fifth Lesson (Read Proverbs 4:10-19)

Solomon begins this lesson by telling us that growing in wisdom is a lifelong project. As we walk in God's steps we mature in true wisdom. Note in verses 18 and 19 we see a comparison of the child of God walking in the light and the child of the world walking in darkness. (Ref. John 12:35)

Sixth Lesson (Read Proverbs 4:20-27)

Here Solomon uses as an object lesson the human body in order to show how our entire being must be clothed with wisdom. Solomon mentions the heart, mouth, lips, eyes, and feet. (Ref. Romans 12:1 and the hymn "Take My Life and Let It Be")

How did Solomon use different approaches in his sermons?

Seventh Lesson (Read Proverbs 1-23)

The seventh, ninth and tenth lessons deal with sexual purity. The seriousness of this temptation was as important in Solomon's day as it is today. Its grip was just as intense; its pleasures just as inviting; its

habits just as consuming; and its results just as damning. Here Solomon offers some suggestions for restraining ourselves from this sin. Sadly, these important discourses often become dusty and hidden in our Bibles, rarely seeing the light of day, when instead they should be read and reviewed frequently with our youth as well as ourselves. Notice that in verse 15 Solomon encourages us to honor the marriage command of one woman and one man to faithfully live together. (If only Solomon had listened to his own advice.) Although this lesson ends on a sad note, we must add that there is hope for those caught in the web of infidelity and adultery. (Ref. 1 Corinthians 6:9,11.)

How could we use Solomon's proverbs in teaching our children about sexual purity today?

Eighth Lesson (Read Proverbs 6:1-20)

Solomon takes a brief break before continuing with his sexual instructions, with a section regarding debt, laziness, and signs to look for in a scoundrel. In verse 16 he lists seven (the number of completeness) things that the Lord hates. These weaknesses, which are found in us all, are mentioned many more times throughout the book.

How does the biblical view of hard work contrast with the philosophy of many in our country today?

Ninth Lesson (Read Proverbs 6:20-35)

Here Solomon begins by showing how important it is to heed the instruction of a godly mother and father, and follow the path of wisdom. Verse 26 once again returns to the subject of sexual promiscuity which Solomon compares to playing with fire. He ends this lesson by mentioning that some of the consequences of such sins include destroying a person's reputation and name.

Give an example of someone whose name or reputation were tarnished by sexual promiscuity.

Tenth Lesson (Read Proverbs 7:1-27)

As with other lessons, Solomon begins with words of encouragement, a good lesson for us to follow when instructing others. The teaching method used

in this lesson varies somewhat from the others. Here Solomon paints a picture of an encounter with an adulteress. Perhaps he was speaking with first-hand knowledge. Note the seductive tone she uses, the same method Satan uses today. Notice how she appeals to all of the senses of the young man. (Seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling, and touching.) Note also how quickly the young man made up his mind in verse 22.) Solomon ends these lessons with four verses pleading with him (and us) not to follow in the ways of foolishness but rather to walk in the wisdom of God. Solomon wrote these words, yet the temptations were so alluring that he could not practice what he preached. We should constantly ask God to provide the strength to follow him that we might walk in the way of true wisdom.

What does the fact that Solomon, the one who wrote these words yet fell into sexual temptation, teach us?

Wisdom's Call

After completing his ten lessons, Solomon provides several comments regarding wisdom. (Follow the breaks in the biblical text.)

Proverbs 8:1-11

Wisdom calls out to all who would listen.

Proverbs 8:12-21

Wisdom defines herself.

Proverbs 8:22-31

Wisdom explains her existence.

Proverbs 8:32-36

Wisdom shows her importance.

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom sends out her invitation.

Proverbs 9:7-12

Some effects of wisdom.

Proverbs 9:13-18

Warnings about the woman named Folly.

Why does godly wisdom receive such emphasis? How important is it to the Christian?