

PROVERBS 8 - The Excellence of Wisdom!

11/23/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

The Blessings of Wisdom

- **Now as we get into chapter eight, he begins to speak about wisdom.** He personifies wisdom, so that as he talks about wisdom, we actually see a personification of Jesus Christ. “For ***in Christ***”, the Bible says, ***(Col 2:3) in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*** So when you talk about wisdom, you’re talking about the Lord. ***(1Co 1:17-18,24) For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. [18] for the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [24] but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***
- **Wisdom cries out,....** Here the person instructing throughout this whole book is represented under the name of "Wisdom"; by which we are to understand not the attribute of divine wisdom displayed in the works of creation; nor the light of nature in man; nor the law of Moses given to the Israelites; nor the revelation of the divine will in general, as it is delivered out in the sacred Scriptures; nor the Gospel, and the ministry of it, in particular; **but our Lord Jesus Christ;** for the things spoken of Wisdom, and ascribed to it in this book, especially in the eighth and ninth chapters, show that a divine Person is intended, and most properly belong to Christ; who may be called "Wisdoms." (Gill)

Pro 8:1 Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice?

- **Solomon here wrote of wisdom as if she were a person** – a noble, beautiful, helpful woman in contrast to the immoral woman described in Proverbs 7

Pro 8:2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet.

- **Wisdom personified cries out as widely and broadly as possible.** She speaks to those *beside the way* and *where the paths meet.* She makes her call in the most public of places,

Pro 8:3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors:

- **Wisdom is not hidden** – it cries out to all who will listen

Pro 8:4 "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.

- **So, wisdom calls to us along the paths,** at the gates.

Pro 8:5 O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart.

- **Wisdom doesn’t give up on the simple ones.** The simple man described in Proverbs 7 seems like a lost cause, but he doesn’t have to be. *We can* learn the ways of wisdom and benefit from that learning.

Pro 8:6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things;

Pro 8:7 For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

- **So, wisdom is crying to be heard.** “Listen to me!” I am always amazed at what foolish things smart men can do. Because they don’t have wisdom. I’m amazed what intelligent, smart people do!
- **Wisdom calls! Understand wisdom!** You can be smart, and be a fool! “My mouth shall speak truth.”

Pro 8:8 All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.

- **Wisdom says of her words that there is nothing crooked or perverse in them.**

Pro 8:9 They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.

- **There is clarity and a straightforward character to wisdom**, one that contrasts with elaborate so-called hidden truths and mysteries.

Pro 8:10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold;

- **Receive my instruction** in preference to silver.

Pro 8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.

- **Wisdom is the most important thing** you can get, better than riches.

Pro 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

- **Now you see wisdom, because "I wisdom"**, becomes personified here. Where **prudence** – self-control, good judgment – is found, there wisdom will be found. A life given to impulse and extremes will not gain, appreciate, or display wisdom.

Pro 8:13 The fear of the LORD (14x in Prov; 27 x in Bible) is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

- **So, the fear of the LORD is to hate evil.** Some of the evils that wisdom hates are listed. "Pride, arrogancy, the evil way, the perverse mouth, I hate." "If you say you have fellowship with God, and you walk in darkness, you lie, and do not the truth." The fear of the LORD, that's the beginning of wisdom. But the fear of the LORD is to hate evil. You cannot fear the LORD and embrace evil things.

Pro 8:14 Counsel is mine (wisdom says), and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength.

Pro 8:15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

- **Many gain power, stay in power, and exercise power** through gaining and using wisdom.

Pro 8:16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth.

Pro 8:17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

- **Those who love and pursue wisdom will find themselves rewarded.** They will find wisdom and the blessings wisdom brings.

Pro 8:18 Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.

- **It could even be said that wisdom seeks out** her followers to bless them.

Pro 8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.

- **The value of wisdom!** Oh, that we would have wisdom!

Pro 8:20 I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,

Pro 8:21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

- **Now it's really, it is referring more directly to Jesus.**

Pro 8:22 "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

- **God used wisdom and intelligence in the design of the universe.** If we represent wisdom as a person, then it can be said that wisdom was with God in creation.

Pro 8:23 I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.

- **God used wisdom in making something** out of nothing.

Pro 8:24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

Pro 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth;

- **With poetic beauty, Solomon considered many different aspects of creation** and how God used wisdom to **design** and arrange them all.

Pro 8:26 While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world.

Pro 8:27 When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,

- **(Joh 1:3) All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.**

Pro 8:28 When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,

Pro 8:29 When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth,

- **Wisdom has in mind that the Creator established unalterable laws** or ordinances that set the boundaries for the earth that the hostile sea cannot transgress.

Pro 8:30 Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

- **Wisdom is speaking, its existence from the beginning.** But intelligence, wisdom. "I was there", wisdom said. The wisdom that is there in the, that's, that's there in every living cell. It is manifested, and so wisdom speaks about being there.
- **In the beginning, when He prepared the heavens,** when He established the clouds, He strengthened the foundations, wisdom was there, and, and this code into the cell which is so marvelous.

Pro 8:31 Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.

- **The created world is so marked by God's wise and good design and arrangement** that wisdom rejoiced in it. Especially, wisdom was happy with God's creation of man (**my delight was with the sons of men**). We sometimes think that the creation of man was a *problem* with the design and creation of the world; in a sense, man was the *purpose* of creation.

Pro 8:32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways.

- **Wisdom is speaking to you, listen to wisdom.**

Pro 8:33 Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it.

- **Having given her impressive résumé, now wisdom can make** a reasoned appeal that we **listen** to her.

Pro 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.

- **This blessing comes to those who not only listen to wisdom but are willing** to inconvenience themselves to seek her. They are willing to watch *daily at* her *gates* and wait *at the posts* of her *doors*. Their pursuit of wisdom is intentional, not accidental.

Pro 8:35 For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;

- **And obtains favor from the LORD:** "Which is better than life. God's favor is no empty favor.

Pro 8:36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

- **Again, personifying it, making it Christ that surely speaks to us,** the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Finding Christ, you find life. You obtain favour of the Father. Sin against Christ, you're only wronging your own soul. And, if you hate Him, you love death.

BE THOU MY VISION *Ancient Irish translated by Mary Byrne; Maranatha (3:43)*

No one's story is done whose pages rest in the hands of the Father. No song is too old that it cannot be sung again in the choir of God's grace. "Be Thou My Vision" is a reminder that man's ways are not God's ways. The mist descends in the hills and rises to the sky. The mossy mountains crumble and groan. But the grace of God shines bright, as it did on Slane Hill in the days of Saint Patrick.

*Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light*

*Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art*

*High King of heaven, my victory won May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall Still be my vision, O ruler of all
Still be my vision, O ruler of all*

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD

LEADERS: - *Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi - India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Luiz Lula da Silva - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Bola Tinubu - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin - Russia; Lopez Obrador–Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu–Israel; Olaf Scholz – Germany; Keir Starmer – U.K.*

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY; ISRAEL:
FOR STATES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! LOUISIANA! TENNESSEE!
OKLAHOMA? OTHER STATES?**

PRESIDENT TRUMP AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION