

*Background to Proverbs 1:20ff*

- In Proverbs, we have *Truth For Youth*. We have God's wisdom: *skill for living*!
- Here the father is pleading with his son to listen to wisdom! This is "Wisdom Personified" — as if Wisdom was a "Person" -- and a mouth to speak, a mind to think, feet to walk, a voice to preach.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUMMARY OF THE SECTION WITH THE COLORFUL WORD PICTURES</li> </ul> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➡ <i>The Street Preacher (20-21)</i></li> <li>➡ <i>The U-turn needed (23)</i></li> <li>➡ <i>The Laughing (26)</i></li> <li>➡ <i>The Violent Hurricane (27)</i></li> <li>➡ <i>The Eating &amp; Filled Man [not w/ delicious food but with Divine fury] (31)</i></li> </ul> |
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**THESIS — From Proverbs 1, God personifies wisdom as a 'street preacher' and there is a very sobering, startling, and severe message. Wisdom warns, so take heed!**

1. *Wisdom Heralds*, SO **LISTEN!** (20-22)
2. *Wisdom Pleads*, SO **REPENT!** (23)
3. *Wisdom Warns*, SO **FEAR!** (24-33)

## **I. WISDOM HERALDS, SO LISTEN! (20-22)**

A. THE KEY WORD: *URGENCY!*

3 groups of people:

- ❖ **Naive Ones/Simple ones:** "believe anything" – anything goes
- ❖ **Scoffers/Scorner:** they think they know everything; Laugh at important Truths; They love to live by SIGHT and not by FAITH (Prov 21.24)
- ❖ **Fool:** is the one ignorant of truth because he's hard-hearted

## **II. WISDOM PLEADS, SO REPENT! (23)**

A. THE KEY WORD: *SIMPLICITY!*

The call: **TURN** ("Repent")

How does this happen: **God's SPIRIT**

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**BUT IF YOU REFUSE TO HEAR GOD'S WISDOM, your doom is sure.**

- True compassion cautions!
  - True love warns!
  - It is hateful to know of impending ruin & say nothing at all!
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### **III. WISDOM WARNS, SO FEAR! (24-33)**

#### **A. THE KEY WORD: *TRAGEDY***

- Every time an unbeliever sins he is adding to his torment in hell. The unbelieving are increasing their future wrath and torment in hell every day by their continued sinning, their continued rebelling, their continued defiance, and their continued procrastination! In hell, men will wish that they had never been born and never had the Gospel Truth preached to them! But it'll be too late! DO NOT delude yourself.
- Christianity does not consist in words, or pious statements, or mere intellectual belief, but in a new heart and a new life dedicated to NOT sinning, and yes, living for the Glory of God! If your heart and life have not been changed by God, you are still in your sins!
- Men stand on the brink of the pit of hell and are ready to fall headlong into the agonizing Fire and yet they are completely unaware that they are in any danger. It's better to hear of hell and be warned by it now, while you are living and be terrified by it and run from it, than to have to endure hell forever when you die!" [William Nichols, "The Terrors of Hell"]

The ***ROAD*** to judgment (24-31) // Tragedy of refusing God's wisdom

**The REASON for judgment (29)****The RESCUE from judgment (32-33)**

I wonder if Christ was thinking of Prov 1:20ff when he stood publicly in the open plaza & lifted his voice on the Great Day of the Feast of Tabernacles & cried out [He Himself being the very embodiment of "Wisdom"]: "if anyone is thirsty, let him come to ME and drink. whoever believes, from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water! This He spoke of the Spirit" (John 7.37-38).

*This text prompts me to address some groups of hearers:*

- ❖ Unconverted **REBEL.**
- ❖ Unconverted **MORALIST.**
- ❖ Unconverted **INTELLECTUAL.**
- ❖ Unconverted **RELATIVIST**
- ❖ Unconverted **PREACHER.**
- ❖ Unconverted **CHURCHMEMBER.**
- ❖ Unconverted **TEENAGER.**
- ❖ Unconverted **PROCRASTINATOR**

Jonathan Edwards speaks of men unable to find even a moment of relief in hell in his sermon on The Future Punishment of the Wicked: "Nor will they ever be able to find anything to relieve them in hell. They will never find any resting place there; any secret corner, which will be cooler than the rest, where they may have a little respite, a small abatement of the extremity of their torment. They never will be able to find any cooling stream or fountain, in any part of that world of torment; no, nor so much as a drop of water to cool their tongues. They will find no company to give them any comfort, or do them the least good. They will find no place, where they can remain, and rest, and take breath for one minute: for they will be tormented with fire and brimstone; and they will have no rest day nor night forever and ever."

This truth is useful to motivate Christians to tell others of the message of Christ. Eryl Davies wrote in his book The Wrath of God: "The eternity of hell's sufferings should make us the more zealous and eager to tell people of the only One who is able to rescue them. Do we shrink from declaring these solemn truths? Does the thought of hell displease us? Remember that God will be glorified even through the eternal sufferings of unbelievers in hell. His injured

**Proverbs 1:20-33 — "Wisdom Shouts to You: Repent Or You'll Be Violently Destroyed!"**

majesty will be vindicated...What is supreme in the purpose of God in the election and reprobation of men is His own glory, and hell also will glorify the justice, power, and wrath of God throughout eternity. In the meantime it is our responsibility to pray and work for the salvation of sinners before such awful punishment overtakes them."

## ROCK OF AGES

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save, and thou alone.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.

### **Exhortation to Youths** [by Archibald Alexander]

Think not, dear young people, that true piety will detract from your happiness. It is a reproach cast upon your Maker, to indulge such a thought. It cannot be. A God of goodness never required anything of his creatures which did not tend to their true felicity. Piety may indeed lead you to exchange the pleasures of the theater and ballroom—for the purer joys of the church and prayer-meeting. It may turn your attention from books of mere idle fancy and fiction—to the Word of God—which to a regenerated soul is found to be sweeter than honey, and more excellent than the choicest gold; but this will add to your happiness rather than diminish it.

We would then affectionately and earnestly exhort and entreat you to "remember now your Creator in the days of your youth". (Eccles 12:1) This will be your best security against all the dangers and temptations to which you are exposed; this will secure to you "the favor of God which is life, and His loving-kindness which is better than life". (Psalm 30:5; Psalm 63:3) Delay not your conversion. **Every day is lost time, which is not spent in the service of God.** Besides, procrastination has proved ruinous to many. Eternity is at hand; the judgment day must be met, and how can we appear there, without true piety? This is our only preparation and passport for heaven.

Dear youth, be wise—and secure "an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading—reserved in heaven for you." Christ extends His arms of mercy to secure you. Angels are waiting to rejoice at your conversion and to become your daily and nightly guardians. The doors of the church will be opened to receive you. The ministers of the Gospel, and all the company of believers, will hail your entrance and will welcome you to the precious ordinances of God's house. And finally, remember that "now is the accepted time and the day of salvation". (2 Cor 6:2)