

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Kevin Olivier  
**Proverbs 8 – “Heed Wisdom’s Call”**

- A. I do not think it is accidental that so many unbelievers love things that are dark & grotesque.
1. In the concluding verse of **Prov 8**, wisdom personified says, **“All those who hate me love death.”**  
→ They are deceived that there is something fascinating about death & what comes after it.
  2. Deep down, the unbeliever knows that this life is not all that there is. **Ecclesiastes 3:11** says, **“He has also set eternity in their heart.”**
    - a) The problem is how so many are deceived as to what an eternity in hell will be like.
    - b) The toughest, meanest, & strongest men in this life will wake up in torment & will weep...

B. Wisdom is personified in the Proverbs as a woman who calls— even cries out for men, women, & children to listen to her. Wisdom can be defined as God’s revelation: both general & special.  
→ Today’s text places a heavy emphasis upon that special revelation given to us from the Holy Spirit speaking in Scripture.

You are to heed wisdom’s call to have life.	I. <u>LISTEN TO WISDOM</u> II. <u>WISDOM AT CREATION</u> III. <u>ULTIMATUM OF WISDOM</u>
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I. LISTEN TO WISDOM (vv1-5)

- A. As wisdom lifts-up her voice & cries-out, today’s text, especially (**v5**), gives hope to the naïve & foolish.
1. If read it carefully, wisdom says there is hope for:
    - a. the naïve ones to come to an understanding of prudence & for
    - b. the fools of this world to understand wisdom. People can change for the better.
  2. Today’s text does not support India’s 2,000 year-old caste or hierarchy system.
  3. **Prov 8:5** says naïve can grow to understand prudence O fools to understand wisdom.
    - a. For those who sincerely seek God to obtain from Him both prudence & wisdom, He often gives other blessings as well. → (**vv15-18**)
      - 1) We don’t obtain wisdom passively: **“those who diligently seek me will find me.”**
      - 2) Those who God ordains to obtain wealth maintain it rather than blow-it frivolously → (**v18**) says divine wisdom gives **“enduring wealth”**
      - 3) More important than material blessing is what God gives to those who seek Christ as the source of wisdom & salvation: He gives **“enduring... righteousness”**
  4. Again, concerning God’s power to change people, the Holy Spirit gave Hannah these words: **“The Lord kills & makes alive; He brings down to Sheol & raises up. The Lord makes poor & rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles, & inherit a seat of honor...” (1 Sam 2:6-8)**  
→ God took David, a shepherd of sheep, & made him King of Israel.

- B. Throughout **Prov 8**, God gives us many reasons why we ought to listen when wisdom speaks in Script:
1. Wisdom speaks that which is noble & upright → (**vv6-9**)
  2. We ought to listen not because we hope wisdom will bring wealth, but because wisdom herself is worth more than the world’s riches → (**vv10-11**)
- C. We can tell is someone has God’s wisdom by how they deal with sin. → (**v13**) & (**v20**)  
→ A child of wisdom walks in her paths— in her ways.

## II. WISDOM AT CREATION (vv22-23)

A. I hope no-one tries to press **v22** to far to say that the Lord had a beginning. The following context indicates **“the beginning of His way”** points to God’s 6 day work of creating the universe.

1. Wisdom was present during God’s almighty creative process & even before it.
2. Wisdom said she is eternal: **(v23) “From everlasting I was established, ...”**
  - a. To answer **“what is God?”** Westminster Shorter Catechism #4 says **“God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, & unchangeable, in His ... wisdom”**
  - b. To ignore wisdom is to ignore the **infinite, eternal, & unchangeable** God of all creation.

B. Some believe we need what is new & innovative over what they consider to be old & outdated. There is often true in some areas such as engineering & architecture yet not in areas such as theology & morality. Everlasting wisdom from God is far better than what some modern notions of wisdom: → **(vv23-30)**

1. We should listen to divine wisdom because she predates the creation of the heavens & earth.
2. Since she was instrumental in the creation of the world as a **“master workman,”** don’t you think you should listen to her to gain understanding as how to live upon this world?

C. God delights in wisdom; so should you. **(v30) “as a master workman. . . I was daily His delight”**

1. A mark of growing in sanctification is growing to love what God loves.
2. A 2<sup>nd</sup> mark of growing in sanctification is growing to hate what God hates. → **(v7 & v13)**

D. When God finished His creation, He delighted in it & said it was **“very good” (Gen 1:31).**

1. **Prov 8:30-31** expands upon that truth.
2. God placed in us an appreciation of the beauty of sights, sounds, smells, & textures of this creation because we are created in His image.

## III. ULTIMATUM OF WISDOM

A. Blessing & cursing are key components in God’s covenant of grace. **(v32)**

1. The inverse is true of **v32** as well, cursed are they who refuse to keep the way of wisdom.
2. **Ps 34** gives us instruction both of God’s blessing of His children yet cursing evildoers → **vv11-22**

B. The ultimatum in **(v33)** is to **“Heed instructn & be wise, & do not neglect it.”**

1. Being willing to heed, submit, or place yourself under the instruction is essential.
2. **Prov 26:12 “Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”**
  - a. He who is wise in his own eyes doesn’t want to sit under the teaching of someone else.
  - b. → Turn to **Prov 3:5-8**

C. The ultimatum is to diligently seek wisdom to find her → **(v34)**. You never out-grow the call to seek God’s wisdom **“watching daily at [her] gates, waiting at [her] doorposts.”**

D. If you want His grace along /c life & peace in this world & the next, you must obtain wisdom **(vv35f) =**  
→ To find the wisdom & favor [grace] of God you must have faith in Christ → Turn to **1 Cor 1:18-24**

Conclusion, review, & further application: