

# THE EXCELLENCE OF WISDOM

## Introduction

- 1) **WISDOM** – *What everyone needs, many look for, and few possess*
- 2) We are commanded to “get wisdom” (Prov. 4:5-7) – something we desperately need!
- 3) Wisdom promises true happiness and quality of life: *riches, honor, long life* (Prov. 3:13-18)
- 4) The Bible reveals to us where to seek wisdom and how truly excellent it is for our lives

## I) Seeking Wisdom (Job 28)

- A) Known as the “Wisdom Poem” – in the middle of the book of Job
- B) Man has ability to search deep into the earth for precious items (vv. 1-11)
- C) Where can man find wisdom? (vv. 12-22)
  - 1) Cannot be dug for or purchased by money; man’s efforts alone fail to get it
- D) God knows where wisdom is and what it is (vv. 23-28)
  - 1) God has revealed wisdom to man – fear of the Lord and depart from evil
  - 2) See also Proverbs 2:1-9

## II) The Excellence of Wisdom (Proverbs 8)

- A) **A guide for everyone** (vv. 1-5)
  - 1) Wisdom cries out in places where people live, work, play (not for elite few- Prov. 1:20-21)
  - 2) Available to the most naïve and foolish to make them wise (Prov. 1:22)
- B) **Partner of true morality** (vv. 6-13)
  - 1) Excellent things – noble things (Prov. 22:17-21; Phil. 1:10; 4:8)
  - 2) “Plain” (v. 9) = straight as opposed to crooked (v. 8)
  - 3) Wisdom more valuable than things of this earth (vv. 10-11; Prov. 16:16)
- C) **Key to success/reward** (vv. 14-21)
  - 1) Material blessings? Enjoyed, but not measure of happiness as we look to greater rewards
- D) **Principle of creation** (vv. 22-31)
  - 1) Indispensable to God – fundamental to the universe (Prov. 3:19-20)
  - 2) We must follow God’s wisdom to live properly in this created world and in the spiritual realm (Prov. 3:21-26; 4:18-20)
    - a) *Submission* to authority (Eccl. 12:13; Eph. 6:1-3)
    - b) *Seeking* the spiritual (Matt. 6:33; Lk. 12:15; Gal. 5:16; 6:7-8)
    - c) *Striving* for eternity (Rom. 8:18-19; Phil. 3:14; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Cor. 15:58)
- E) **Absolutely necessary** (vv. 32-36)
  - 1) Invitation to blessings – listen, keep, hear, and find true life in God’s wisdom (Prov. 4:1-13; Heb. 11:6)
  - 2) Rejecting wisdom will bring deadly eternal consequences (v. 36; Prov. 1:23-33)

## III) Abiding in the House of Wisdom (Proverbs 9)

- A) Wisdom has built her house, prepared the feast, and invited the simple to come (vv. 1-6)
  - 1) Wisdom builds upon itself and brings reward (vv. 9-11)
- B) Folly loudly invites the simple to her house, where is found rebellion and sin (vv. 13-17)
  - 1) Foolishness entraps the simple and destroys his soul (v. 18)
- C) The wise have a solid house, while the foolish abide in a weak, faulty house (Matt. 7:24-27)

#### IV) Where to Find Wisdom Today

- A) God possesses the fullness of true wisdom (Rom. 11:33)
  - 1) Now made known in *Christ* and His *church* (Col. 2:2-3; Eph. 3:10-11)
- B) The preaching of the gospel of Christ reveals the wisdom of God to man today (1 Cor. 1:24; 2:6-7; Col. 1:27-28)
  - 1) Salvation, work/organization of church, morality, marriage, unity, etc.
  - 2) The wise:
    - a) Obey and preach the gospel plan of salvation
    - b) Follow the exact pattern of the organization and work of the church
    - c) Defend marriage as between a man and a woman; oppose homosexuality, fornication
    - d) Follow the laws of the land where they do not contradict the God's laws
    - e) Are honest and truthful in all their dealings; avoid foul and foolish talk
    - f) Seek peace and fellowship in church based on unity in preaching and practicing Word
- C) The possession of wisdom itself is not enough – it must be used and applied to every area of life in obedience to God (Matt. 7:24-27; Jas. 3:13, 17-18; remember Solomon's sad mistakes – 1 Kgs. 4:29-34; 11:1-6)

#### Conclusion

We are to avoid foolishness, and understand the will of the Lord (Eph. 5:17; Col. 4:5)

You must choose *your way* – wisdom and life or foolishness and death (Col. 1:9-12)

**Choose wisely – choose Christ!**

-- *Marc W. Gibson*