

THE EXCELLENCE OF WISDOM

Introduction

- 1) “**WISDOM** is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom” (Prov. 4:7)
- 2) We are commanded to “get wisdom” (Prov. 4:5-7) – something we desperately need!
- 3) Wisdom offers true happiness and quality of 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”
- 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 dig for or purchase with money; man’s efforts alone fail to obtain it
- D) **God knows where wisdom is and what it is** (vv. 23-28)
 - 1) God has revealed wisdom to man – fearing the Lord and departing 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) **What wisdom speaks** (vv. 6-13)
 - 1) Speaks right, true, and excellent (vv. 6-7)
 - 2) Straight and plain as opposed to crooked and perverse (vv. 8-9)
 - 3) Wisdom more valuable than anything on this earth (vv. 10-11; Prov. 16:16)
- C) **Wisdom loves those who love it** (vv. 14-21)
 - 1) Brings true success and honor in our labor and life
- D) **God created all things by His wisdom** (vv. 22-31)
 - 1) Foundation of creation (Prov. 3:19-20)
 - 2) Must follow God’s wisdom in the physical and spiritual world (Prov. 3:21-26)
- E) **Absolutely necessary** (vv. 32-36)
 - 1) Listen to and keep wisdom to obtain favor from God (Prov. 4:1-13; Heb. 11:6)
 - 2) Rejecting wisdom will bring sad consequences (v. 36; Prov. 1:23-33)

III) Abiding in the House of Wisdom (Proverbs 9:1-6)

- A) Wisdom has built her house, prepared the feast, and invited those who need her (vv. 1-6)
 - 1) God possesses the fullness of true wisdom (Col. 2:2-3)
 - 2) Now made known in **Christ** and His **church** (Eph. 3:10-11; 1 Tim. 3:15)
- 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) The possession of wisdom itself is not enough – it must be understood and applied to every area of life in obedience to God (Jas. 3:13, 17-18)

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. 1:9-14)

Seek wisdom – seek Christ!