



WISDOM PERSONIFIED 8:1-36

In the preceding chapters *Solomon* placed much emphasis upon the importance of pursuing “*wisdom*” and listening to the words and instruction of “*wisdom*” But in this chapter “*wisdom*” is pictured as alive and calling to men and women to come and learn the great things of God. In this chapter the “*wisdom*” that we are to make an object of pursuit is personified. WISDOM IS ALIVE! It lives eternally in the Person of the Son of God [I Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3].

I. THE CALL OF WISDOM [verses 1-9]

The chapter opens with two rhetorical questions, “*Doth not wisdom cry?*” The word “*cry*” means “*to call out loudly*” and conveys the idea of **proclaiming**, **publishing**, and **preaching!** WISDOM HAS SOMETHING TO SAY! The second question, “*and understanding (discerning insight) put forth her voice?*” Putting forth the voice signifies “*the publication of godly advice*” “*Wisdom*” and “*understanding*” speak to **instruct** and to **direct**. It is of the grace of God that “*wisdom*” and “*understanding*” have a voice, and that such speaks to man!

1. The Places Where Wisdom And Understanding Speaks [verses 2-3].

Five places are mentioned:

- ☞ “*high places*” The call is made where it can be heard.
- ☞ “*by the way in the places of the paths*” This has reference to where more ways than one met, the busy intersections, where people travel.
- ☞ “*gates*” This has reference to both the “*gates*” of the temple, and the “*gates*” of the city where justice was administered.
- ☞ “*at the entry of the city*” “*Wisdom*” and “*understanding*” would meet and speak with the people coming from the country to conduct business.
- ☞ “*at the coming in at the doors*” This has reference to the temple, the city, and to private houses, and reveals that the instruction and direction of “*wisdom*” is a public message.

2. The Call Of Wisdom Goes Out To All Classes Of People [verses 4-5].

The words “*men*” “*sons of man*” “*simple*” and “*fools*” represent all classes and conditions of mankind.

3. The Instruction Of Wisdom [verses 6-10].

The message of “*wisdom*” is one that we are to “bear” [verse 6] and to “receive” [verse 10], and such was exhorted in the previous chapters. SPIRITUAL RECEPTIVITY IS A MUST [Matthew 13:23; Acts 2:41; 17:11; I Thessalonians 2:13].

☞ *“for I will speak of excellent things”* [verse 6]. The message, the instruction, and direction of “*wisdom*” is one of **excellence!** The word “*excellent*” means “*that which is superior; that which surpasses*” “*Wisdom*” declares God and His will and ways, and this excels and surpasses all other instruction and direction! THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“and the opening of my lips shall be right things”* [verse 6]. “*Wisdom*” proclaims the ways of God, and is therefore always right! “*Wisdom*” reveals **right doing** [Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 6:18], a **right spirit** [Psalm 51:10], **right paths** [Proverbs 4:11], and the **right way** [II Peter 2:15]. The message, instruction, and direction of heavenly “*wisdom*” is always right THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“For my mouth shall speak truth”* [verse 7]. The message, instruction, and direction of “*wisdom*” is **truth** THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“and wickedness is an abomination to my lips”* [verse 7]. The message, instruction, and direction of “*wisdom*” does not lead to or towards wickedness! The message of “*wisdom*” is a message of **holiness** THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“All the words of my mouth are in righteousness”* [verse 8]. The message, instruction, and direction of “*wisdom*” is always in accord with God’s law. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“there is nothing froward (disposed to disobedience) or perverse (corrupt, improper, incorrect) in them”* [verse 8]. The message, instruction and direction of “*wisdom*” is free from sin, and in no way leads to sin. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

☞ *“They are all plain (obvious, and clear) to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge”* [verse 9]. The message, instruction, and direction of “*wisdom*” is not one of obscurity, nor is it difficult to understand. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

II. THE VALUE OF WISDOM [verses 10-11]

1. Wisdom's Instruction Is Better And More Beneficial Than The Receiving Of Silver [verse 10].

2. The Knowledge That Is The Result Of Wisdom's Instruction Is Better Than The Finest Gold [verse 10].

3. Wisdom Excels The Worth Of Rubies [verse 11].

4. Wisdom Excels All Things [verse 11].

III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WISDOM [verses 12-21].

1. Wisdom Is Prudent [verse 12].

☞ *"I wisdom dwell with prudence"* Here, *"wisdom"* speaks in her own person, and says *"I wisdom inhabit prudence"* *"Prudence"* is *"the right ordering of things, it is showing care and thought"* and is an attribute of *Christ*.

☞ *"and find out knowledge of witty inventions"* *Christ* (the wisdom of God) is omniscient, and knows all that is in the hearts of men, and all their evil designs.

2. Wisdom Is Holy [verse 13].

"Wisdom" dwells with *"prudence"* but cannot dwell with evil.

☞ *"The fear (reverence) of the LORD (which is the beginning of wisdom) is to hate"* *"Wisdom"* will cause one to loathe, detest, and reject that which is sinful.

☞ *"evil"* This has reference to that which is *"morally reprehensible, sinful, and wicked"* By nature men love *"evil"* but *"wisdom"* hates it! *"Wisdom"* will not lead toward that which is *"evil"*

☞ *"pride"* This is *"inordinate self-esteem"* *"Wisdom"* will not cause one to be proud, but instead will cause humility of spirit.

☞ *"and arrogancy"* This is *"a feeling of superiority"* *"Wisdom"* will never cause one to feel superior to someone else. *"Wisdom"* will produce that which is spoken of in **Philippians 2:3**.

☞ *"and the evil way"* This is the *"way of sinners"* [Psalm 1:1], *"the way of the ungodly"* [Psalm 1:6], *"the way of evil men"* [Proverbs 4:14], *"the way of transgressors"* [Proverbs 13:15], and *"the way of the heathen"* The one who possesses *"wisdom"* or the one who is possessed of *"wisdom"* does not seek these ways.

☞ “*and the froward mouth, do I hate*” The one who possesses “*wisdom*” does not speak that which is “*perverse and disobedient*” “*Wisdom*” in the heart produces holiness in speech.

3. Wisdom Has Great Influence Upon Public Affairs And The Well-Governing Of Society [verses 14-16]. “*Wisdom*” gives “*counsel*” [verse 14]. “*Wisdom*” is “*understanding*” [verse 14]. “*Wisdom*” is “*strength*” [verse 14]. “*Wisdom*” (Jesus Christ) is the source of all power and authority [verses 15-16]. Government in all its administrations; “*kings*” “*princes*” “*nobles*” and “*judges*” are all God-ordained according to His wisdom.

4. Wisdom Makes Happy The Children Of God [verses 17-21].

They shall be happy in the love of *Christ*, and in the success of their enquiries after Him [verses 17-18]. They shall be happy in possession, for what “*wisdom*” gives is of infinite value [verses 18-19]. They shall be happy in the leadings of “*wisdom*” [verse 20], and they will be happy in satisfaction [verse 21].

IV. WISDOM PERSONIFIED IN CHRIST [verses 22-36]

1. Wisdom’s Work Before Creation [verses 22-26].

2. Wisdom’s Work In Creation [verses 27-31].

These verses 22-31 reveal the **eternity** of *Jesus Christ* [Micah 5:2; John 8:58; 17:5, 24; Hebrews 7:3; Revelation 22:13], and the **unity** between *Christ* and the *Father* [John 10:30]. These verses reveal the **creating power** of *Jesus Christ* [I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-2]. *Jesus Christ* not only had being before the world, but He was present, not as a spectator, but as the Architect, when the world was made! The best exposition of Proverbs 8:22-31 is John 1:1-3.

3. Wisdom’s Plea And Promises [verses 32-36].

These verses are the application of “*wisdom’s*” discourse. There should be a **hearing** and an **obeying** the voice of “*wisdom*” [verses 32-33]. There is a **promise** for those who do hear and obey [verses 34-35]. The chapter closes with a **warning** to those who reject the ways of “*wisdom*”