

July 3, 2019
“The Wise Way to Success”
Proverbs 8 and 9

I. Wisdom’s Invitation (8:1-16)

“Doesn’t Wisdom callout? Doesn’t Understanding make her voice heard?” (1)

- A. **Public** - *“At the heights overlooking the road, at the crossroads, she takes her stand. Beside the gates at the entry to the city, at the main entrance, she cries out: “People, I call out to you; my cry is to mankind.” (2-4)*
- B. **Perceived** - *“Learn to be shrewd, you who are inexperienced; develop common sense, you who are foolish.” (5)*
- C. **Positive** - *“Wisdom is more valuable than silver, gold or jewels” (11). Actually “nothing desirable can compare with it” (11)*
- D. **Partnering** - *“I, Wisdom, share a home with shrewdness and have knowledge and discretion. To fear the Lord is to hate evil. I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech. I possess good advice and competence; I have understanding and strength.” (12-14)*
- E. **Parameters** - (9:1-11) The word picture is a lavish banquet for which wisdom is sending invitations. The **inexperienced** and the **one who lacks sense** (4) are both invited. Those to avoid include the **mockers** and a **wicked man** (7).

II. Wisdom’s Origin

“The Lord made me at the beginning of His creation.” (22 cf. 8:23-31)

III. Folly's Invitation (9:13-17)

Folly	Wisdom
Rowdy – 13	Noble – 8:6
Gullible – 14	Trustworthy – 8:7
Lacks knowledge – 13	Discovers knowledge – 8:9, 12
Lazy (sits) – 14	Active – 8:12
Proud (highest point) – 14	Hates pride – 8:13
Temptress (bread eaten secretly) – 17	Defends righteousness – 8:20

IV. RSVP Required: Consequences Confirmed (8:17-21, 32-36; 9:12-18)

- A. **Riches** – *“I love those who love me, and those who search for me and find me. With me are riches and honor, lasting wealth and righteousness. My fruit is better than solid gold, and my harvest than pure silver. I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, giving wealth as an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.”* (8:17-21)
- B. **Rewards** – *“And now, my sons, listen to me: those who keep my ways are happy, listen to instruction and be wise; don’t ignore it. Anyone who listens to me is happy, watching at my doors every day, waiting by the posts of my doorway.”* (8:32-34)
- C. **Risks** – *“If you are wise, you are wise for your own benefit; if you mock, you alone will bear the consequences.”* (9:12, 18)

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