

Lesson 3: Wisdom vs. Foolishness

MEMORY VERSE: “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (Prov 23:23).

Both wisdom and foolishness are calling for your allegiance and attention.

- **Wisdom**
 - **1:20-23** – “Wisdom calls _____ outside, she raises her _____ in the open square.”
 - **8:1-10** – “Does not wisdom _____, and _____ lift her voice?”
 - **9:1-12** – “She cries out from the _____ of the city.”
- **Foolishness**
 - **9:13-18** – “For she sits at the door of her house on a seat by the _____ of the city, to _____ to those who pass by.”
- Both wisdom and foolishness call out to the “simple” – What does that word mean?
 - Considering that meaning, why would they both be vying for the attention of the “simple”?

WORD STUDY

- ⇒ Get a concordance and search for all the uses of “wise” & “wisdom” in the book of Proverbs. Study how these words are used – It will help you get a thorough view of what wisdom is.
- ⇒ Use a Bible dictionary to find the definitions of the words “wise” and “wisdom”.
- ⇒ Find similar words such as “prudence”.
- ⇒ Give your own working definition of “wisdom”.

Both are offering rewards

- **Wages of Foolishness**
 - List some of the empty promises of the sinful (foolish) lifestyle.
 1. **1:13-14** _____
 2. **9:17** _____
 3. **7:17-23** _____
 - **1:24-33** – What are the results of rejecting wisdom’s call?

- **3:35** – What legacy will be left to the fool?
- **8:36; 11:29; 19:29; 22:5** – To what can a fool look forward?
- **10:1; 17:25** – How does our foolishness affect others?
- **10:9; 12:8** – How will foolishness affect our reputation?
- **Wisdom’s Dividends**
 - **3:13-18; 4:10-13; 8:11,18-19; 9:10-12** – What are the “dividends” paid out by wisdom?
 - **24:13-14** – How is wisdom like honey?
 - **16:20-22** – What is understanding to him who has it?

Wisdom Must Be Sought (**Matt. 7:7-11; Prov. 4:5-7**)

- **1:28-31; 14:6** – When will we seek and not find?
- **2:1-5** – We must have diligence in finding wisdom.
 - **2:1** – “_____ my commands within you”
 - **2:2** – “_____ your ear to wisdom and _____ your heart to understanding”
 - **2:3** – “_____ for discernment”
 - **2:4** – “_____ her as silver”
- **7:4** – “Call understanding your _____”
- **8:17** – “Those who seek me _____ shall find me”
- **8:9** – Is God’s wisdom confusing to the one who diligently seeks it?

“Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” (2:5)

Practical Wisdom for Living

Wisdom's Source

- **God (Job 28:12-23)**
 - **8:22** – “The Lord _____ me at the beginning of His way.”
 - **8:23-31** – Describe wisdom’s role in creation.

- **2:6-7** – Is God stingy with wisdom? (also James 1:5) Explain.

- Where is one of our greatest sources for wisdom? (1 Cor. 2:4-13)

- **Wise Counsel / The Aged**
 - **13:20** – “He who _____ with _____ will be wise.”
 - **Lev. 19:32; 1 Tim. 5:2** – What treatment does God expect the younger to give to the aged?

 - **20:29** – “The _____ of old men is their gray head.”
 - **16:31** – The _____ haired head is a _____ of glory, if it is found in the way of _____.”
 - Does wisdom always come with age? (Job 32:6-9) Explain.

- **Parents** – See Lessons 2 & 9.

Contrasting the Wise Man and the Fool

- Write the contrast in these verses between the wise man and the fool.
 - **8:9; 14:6** _____
 - **13:16** _____
 - **14:16** _____
 - **19:25** _____

Anatomy of a Fool / Wise Man.

- Heart (17:16; 18:15)
- Ears (1:5; 5:13;13:1)
- Eyes (4:21,25; 12:15; 17:24; 22:3; 26:16)
- Mouth / Lips (10:11,13,19,31,32; 15:2)
- Hands (10:4; 14:1)
- Feet (1:15,16)

Hidden Treasures

“...search for her as for hidden treasures.”

Dealing with the fool: What advice does Proverbs give for dealing with the fool? See 9:8; 14:7; 17:10; 20:3; 23:9; 26:4-5,11; 27:22; 29:9.

Nature’s Wisdom: How is wisdom illustrated in nature? 30:24-28