



*1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths. 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors. 4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. 5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart. 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them. 9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge. 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. 11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. (Prov 8:1-11)*

In the devotion previous to today's (Proverbs 7), we read of the window out which Solomon looked upon the streets of sin. A window provides two perspectives – to see OUT of one's being, and the other, to see INTO one's heart. It will be far better for us if the sin is outside our windows and not INSIDE them for we do not desire to LIVE in sin. Solomon looked out from his window and saw the world as it exists today, and has always existed. Full of sinful men and women – harlots, boys seeking a reason to commit sin, and feet that run to the wrong place for the wrong reasons. The adulterous harlot of Chapter 7 is precisely the opposite of the virtuosity demonstrated in the character of Wisdom. In Chapter 8, we will see Wisdom in her virtue and character. This devotion on Chapter 8 will be divided into four separate parts – **1)** vs. 1-11 will address the worth and repute of Wisdom; **2)** vs. 12-21 the Nature of Wisdom; **3)** vs. 22-31, the Eternal aspect of Wisdom; and, **4)** vs. 32-36, the blessedness that Wisdom brings with her company.

Even when men act out of lust or foolishness, they hear faintly the voice of Wisdom crying out to them to take heed and follow the righteous way. Though Wisdom is not God, Wisdom is an inherent quality and virtue of God that attends all His counsels. God never leaves Wisdom by the wayside in His counsel and teaching of men. Wisdom, as a devoted wife, goes with God wherever He moves. ***1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?*** God employs the technique of 'personification' in teaching us about Wisdom. We may, thus, consider Wisdom to be a bosom friend and a dear elder sister. When we make critical decisions in life, it is such a

benefit to have an elder sister to whom we may consult for advice. Why is this the case? Because an elder sister is 1) gentle in her nature towards us; 2) wise with life experience; and 3) takes a personal interest out of the love she feels for us in counseling us of the best way to go. Wisdom was with God before the worlds were made, and was with God in Eden, and is forever with God now. But we, too, can have Wisdom to accompany us as well in our daily trials if we will listen to that voice of Wisdom.

In a sense, we, too, never leave Wisdom behind, yet we may ignore her pleadings to us. **2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.** Wisdom's presence is everywhere whether we follow or not. The place of Wisdom is always above the place of man, and stands as way markers to show us the way along the path of life. We ignore the "Bridge Out" sign to our own peril, and we ignore the voice of Wisdom to even greater calamity. Wisdom is beautiful. She is pure and righteous and proclaims her message for all to hear unlike that whispering voice of the harlot in the street. Wisdom always 'takes a bold stand' unashamed of her righteous counsel. Are we like-minded?

Wisdom addresses, like the Gospel of Christ, all comers in at the gate as well as all those who depart those gates. **3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.** What such emphasis on the 'gates of the city?' Because sin is social. Our interaction with others, either righteous or wicked, determines our character. The city is the source of greatest temptation and evil. So Wisdom stands at the gates to warn all comers against the sins of which they may be tempted WITHIN the gates; and she is a herald of Wisdom to all who leave those gates to call back to righteousness from the sins they may have committed. It is unfortunate that Lot did not heed the voice of Wisdom ere entering into the gates of Sodom with his family.

The Voice of Wisdom has its source in her Master, God. Her pleadings are with men. **4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. 5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.** Her voice is magnified to the simple that may lack understanding due to youth, of those whose minds have waxed foolish due to a habitual rejection of her voice. That is what defines a fool – lack of wisdom and no desire for it. If we will take our focus off those paltry things that entice us of this world and heed the voice of Wisdom from Heaven, we will no longer be fools. Fools come in all shapes and sizes and predominate in places of governmental authority.

Never distrust the voice of Wisdom, for it always speaks truly and in our best interest. **6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.** If left unchecked, the child will never eat wholesome food, but only those sweets that rot away his teeth and stunt his growth. The mouth of a loving mother to a child is the mouth of Wisdom. **7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.** How could a false report be considered wise? Wisdom ONLY speaks truth and righteousness. Profane and vulgar language never departs her lips. It is only words of truth and justice that grace her tongue. Wisdom is the mouth of God: **I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear** (Isaiah 45:23) **8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.** Such a quality of language becomes the righteous man and woman, too.

**9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.** Allow me here to point out a profound fact: the words of Wisdom are so

plain as to be impossible to misinterpret to those who DESIRE to understand that voice. The problem is this: many will go a world apart to rationalize away the words of Wisdom and call it by another name. The term "alternate lifestyle" for unmarried cohabitation or homosexual unions comes to mind. Those who have learned the knowledge God teaches in His Book will have no difficulty in seeing the righteousness of His teaching without trying to find 'detours' around it.

**10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.** Solomon sought Wisdom, not wealth and power; but Solomon received those added benefits because he sought Wisdom first and foremost. What good is a million dollars to a fool who knows not the worth of God's grace?

Sometimes I wonder if God is trying to tell men something about their spiritual inferiority compared with women. God says that a good woman (wife) has value above rubies, and here God says the same of Wisdom. The implication is that a Wise wife is a woman whose Wisdom will be used to prepare her husband, her sons, and her daughters for the pitfalls of life. This has been true with my own wife. She is the essence of the wise mother and wife. Had I listened to her voice more keenly in my early youth, I would be much further down the road to the City of Wisdom. **11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.** If we seek first the Kingdom of God, we shall lack none of the best things of life. Simple, isn't it?