THE INFORMING OF WISDOM

**DATE: 9/20/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 8:1-11**

**INTRODUCTION**

Chapters 8 and 9, start a new section of the book portraying the Virtues of Wisdom

In chapter 8, Solomon again describes Wisdom as a

personality and how this personality is characterized by righteousness

Once again, the greater personification of Wisdom is

found in Christ, which is made clear throughout this chapter

Wisdom and Knowledge are both recurring themes in the Bible

They are related but not synonymous

The dictionary defines …

**Wisdom** as *the ability to discern or judge what is true, right, or lasting*

**Knowledge**, on the other hand, is *information gained through experience, reasoning, or acquaintance*

Knowledge can exist without Wisdom

Someone can be Knowledgeable without being Wise

Knowledge is knowing how to use a gun

Wisdom is knowing when to use it and when to keep it holstered

God wants us to have Knowledge of Him and what He expects of us

In order to obey Him, we have to have Knowledge of His Commands

But as equally important as having Knowledge is having Wisdom

Knowing facts about God and the Bible is not enough

Wisdom is a Gift from God

**James 1:5 – *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth (to reprimand) not; and it shall be given him”***

God blesses us with Wisdom in order that we might glorify Him

The Book of Proverbs is perhaps the best place in the Bible to learn Biblical Wisdom

**Proverbs 1:7** speaks of both Biblical Knowledge and Wisdom

***“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction”***

To Fear the LORD is to start on the path to Understanding,

God then can begin to provide us with Wisdom through Christ, who the Bible says is Wisdom itself

**I Corinthians 1:30 *– “But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:”***

Knowledge is what is gathered over time through study of the Scriptures

It can be said that Wisdom, in turn, acts properly upon that Knowledge

Wisdom is the Fitting Application of Knowledge

For Example …

Knowledge understands that when the traffic light turns red, it means to stop; Wisdom applies the brakes

Knowledge sees the quicksand; Wisdom walks around it

Knowledge Memorizes the Ten Commandments; Wisdom Obeys them

Knowledge Learns of God; Wisdom Loves Him

Tonight we begin chapter 8 with this thought

**“The Informing of Wisdom”**

Let’s stand to read **vs. 1-11** and then pray

Read **vs. 1 – 11**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

The harlot's house was down a back street …

While Wisdom's voice calls from the ***“High Places”***

The harlot *prowled* the streets and *lurked* at the intersections …

Wisdom *stands* ***“by the way in the places of the path”***

***“the places”*** are Homes, ***“the way… path”*** is the street the Homes are on

The harlot could not wait to close the door on her victims

But Wisdom takes her stand ***“at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors”***

Public Places / Where people come and go

Had the harlot's husband listened to Wisdom, he would have turned around and gone home to put his house in order

His marriage surely should have been more important than his money

At least Wisdom would have told him that

The fact that Wisdom can be found everywhere is significant

It’s not hard to find, if we have ears to hear, eyes to see, ready minds, and receptive hearts

There are no excuses for not having Wisdom,

For information about Wisdom, is readily available

Wisdom can be learned in many, many areas of life

**I. THE ‘SHOUTING’ OF WISDOM – v.1**

Wisdom is personified in the female gender

***“Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?”***

In chapter 7 we saw the ***“strange woman”*** call unto the young man

Evil calls to people, to lead them astray

Wisdom calls out as well

It’s Obvious – ***“Doth not”*** (The Rhetorical Question)

***“Cry”* –** means *to call loudly, to shout out*

It’s loud enough for all to hear

We see Jesus doing this in **John 7:37**

***“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink”***

The fool simply will not listen

**Zechariah 7:11 *– “But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear”***

**Acts 7:57 *– “Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord”***

These are those, the Bible calls **– *“void of understanding”***

**II Peter 3:5 – *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth…”***

**THE ‘SHOUTING’ OF WISDOM**

**II. THE ‘SIGHT’ OF WISDOM – v.2**

***“She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths”***

Wisdom is readily seen … ***“She standeth”***

For example, **Ps. 19:1** says – **“*The heavens declare the glory of God”***

Wisdom is not hidden in secret places so mankind cannot know it

Wisdom is visible for every eye to see and know

But those preferring their own way, simply will not look for wisdom

**THE SHOUT, SIGHT OF**

**III. THE ‘SITES’ OF WISDOM – v.3**

***“She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors”***

It’s obvious that Solomon has Jerusalem in mind

The Holy City, the city of the Prophets and Preachers of the Word of God

It’s from this city that God cries out to the whole world

The Jews have been the penmen of God’s Word

They have been given the oracles of God

**Romans 3:2 – *“Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God”***

***“oracles”* –** *are considered to be the source of wisdom, knowledge and prophecy*

**THE SHOUT, SIGHT, SITES OF**

**IV. THE ‘SOCIETY’ OF WISDOM – vs. 4, 5**

***“Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man” “O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart”***

The call is made clear here

***“Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man”***

The appeal to get wisdom, is to men everywhere

Even to the …

***“O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart”***

The word ***“simple”*** essentially has the sense of being *naive*

The mention of ***“fools”*** refers to those who are willfully unwise, irresponsible, and cocky

The modern slang word *jerk* is not far from the idea

**Jerk –** *someone deserving to be whipped*

**Proverbs 26:3 *– “A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back”***

The greater point is that wisdom calls out to all men to pay heed, especially those who are naive, irresponsible, and foolish

Unfortunately, the ones in need most, are lest to hear

**THE SHOUT, SIGHT, SITES, SOCIETY OF**

**V. THE ‘SANCTITY’ OF WISDOM – vs. 6-9**

Those areas of life that deceive *respect and reverence*

To get Wisdom is a Noble Cause

To get Wisdom is a holy and sacred objective

**Proverbs 4:7 – “*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding”***

We see here some *Sacred* aspects of Wisdom

Wisdom is …

**A. Honorable – v.6**

**v. 6a - *“I* *will speak of excellent things”***

The phrase ***“excellent things”*** has the sense of something praiseworthy, respectable

The point is that wisdom is not found in base coarse, crude, or vulgar comments / or things

It is elegant and tasteful

Moreover, the voice of wisdom speaks righteously

**v. 6b - *“and the opening of my lips shall be right things”***

***“right things”* –** the out ward demonstration of living right / practical righteousness

Someone with godly wisdom is good at managing matters and dealing with problems and difficulties

A close relationship exist between righteousness and wisdom

These 2 are virtually synonymous

It speaks of something that is very Honorable

This refers to being accurate, correct

 Wisdom does not pervert and put a spin on things

… like the worldly advertisers and politicians

**B. Honest – v.7**

***“My* *mouth shall speak truth … wickedness is an abomination to my lips”***

Truthfulness is not a characteristic of the world

For their lips are dishonest and proclaim …

***“wickedness”* – *being unethical***

**Isaiah 5:20, 21 *– “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” “Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”***

Honesty is a characteristic of Wisdom

My Mouth shall speak Truth

**Proverbs 12:17 *– “He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit”***

**C. Holy – v.8**

***“All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them”***

Wisdom *honors* righteousness and holiness

It is not evil and wicked

Again, there is a direct correlation between wisdom and righteousness

In **v. 6,** we saw the phrase ***“right things”*** referring to

*practical righteousness*  …

The out ward demonstration of living right

Here the word ***“righteousness”*** is used as a principle

Principles deal with Maturity

The Dictionary defines a Principle as *a general rule or truth basic to other truths: … a rule of personal conduct based on a primary source*

According to **Hebrews 5:12-14 …**

A Biblical Principle is a means used to ***“discern”*** both Good and Evil

A Precept *Decrees* a definite action or prohibition

Whereas …

A Principle *Delivers a Guiding Policy* which can be applied to non-specific situations

There are numerous Principles given throughout the Word of God

The Lord has not given us specific instructions for every single circumstance and possible situation we may encounter

Therefore we are to deal with much of life through the application of Biblical Principles

For Example:

**-- I Cor. 6:19, 20 …** The Believer’s Body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost

This Principle guides us in areas of physical health

**(Smoking, drugs, tattoos [Lev. 19:28] & piercings, alcohol etc.)**

**-- II Cor. 6:14-17** … The Believer is not to be Unequally Yoked **(Deut.22:10)** with unbelievers

This Principle speaks to matters of marriage, business partnerships and church associations

**-- Romans 14:1** … We are to receive those who are weak in the faith, but not when it will cause doubtful Disputation (arguments)

**This is dealing with receiving prospective members into the fellowship of the church**

**-- I Thess. 5:22** … We are to abstain from all appearances of evil

It is not a matter of avoiding what is Clearly Wrong!

But rather taking into consideration what Looks Wrong

Something that might send a wrong message

**-- I Cor. 10:31** … We are to Do All to the Glory of God

This Principle *when* turned into a question by the Child of God, will guide us to where we should go and what we should do

**Application of Principles**

-- They are to be **Taught**

So that a person can understand the general rule in order to identify the specific application

-- They are to be **Applied**

So someone can grow toward maturity **Heb. 5:14a**

This comes through assimilation and application of the Principles of the Word of God

Young Christians may not be ready for ministry

But should be given every opportunity to grow in grace toward that end

Principles are important in making Good Decisions

The principle of righteousness is an integral part of wisdom

Thus, to do that which is right is to do that which is wise

Or conversely, to do that which is wise is to do that which is right

Here, the specific context is of what we say

Wise advice or comments will embrace the principle of righteousness

There is nothing ***“froward or perverse”*** in lending wisdom

The thought is how, that there is nothing crooked or improper in true wisdom

Genuine Wisdom reflects the Holiness of God

**D. Honoring – v.9**

To Others / to one’s self

***“They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge”***

The word ***“plain”*** speaks of integrity

This statement is sort of a summary of the various characteristics of wisdom which we have just cited

Honorable, Honest and Holy

It says that those of integrity, quality people …

**“*him that understandeth... that find knowledge”***

… Judge wisdom as an honorable part of their lives

Other’s recognize the nobleness of wisdom in that person’s life

**THE SHOUT, SIGHT, SITES, SOCIETY, SANCTITY OF**

**VI. THE ‘SUPERIORITY’ OF WISDOM – vs. 10, 11**

***“Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold” “For wisdom is better than rubies; …”***

2 Thoughts here

**A. We see Wisdom’s Wealth Compared**

The World’s mentality, is to thinks, if they can just win the lottery, that they would have it made

They think that everything will be alright with enough money

***“silver, gold and rubies …”***

We all need money, that’s why we work for a living

But while the world pursues wealth

Believers are to pursue Wisdom / Understanding

**Matthew 6:33 – *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”***

***“Silver, gold, and rubies”*** even in abundance are only ***“things”***

And *things* will dominate our lives (If we let them)

*Things* will always crowd out the ***“Kingdom of God”***

The poor man will spend his life worrying about the things he does *not* have (while)

The rich man will spend his life worrying about the things he does have

Yet Jesus said – ***“A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he posseseth”-* Luke 12:15**

*Things* are deceptive

*Things* hold our thoughts down so that we become occupied with the material, the physical, the temporal, and the fleeing

**B. Then we see Wisdom’s Wealth Beyond Compare**

***“and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it”***

There is Nothing that Compares to Having and exercising Wisdom

Wisdom would have us look up

A desire for wealth cause us to look down

Wisdom would teach us to look at the world to come, to lay up treasure in Heaven, and to become ***“rich toward God”***

**Luke 12:21 *– “So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”***

Wisdom is better than all the wealth you can image

Wealth will be lost, but Wisdom embraces the Word of God and endures forever

**THE “INFORMING” OF WISDOM**