THE IDENTITY OF WISDOM

**DATE: 10/11/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 8:22-36**

**INTRODUCTION**

From here to the end of the chapter the personification of Wisdom becomes evident

**Personification** - *is giving human qualities to objects or abstract notions*

Demonstrating Wisdom in one’s life, is a portrayal of Christ

The Bible says that Christ is the Wisdom of God

**I Corinthians 1:24 –** ***“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God”***

**Colossians 2:3 *– “In Whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”***

Everything in Creation owes its existence to Wisdom that brought everything into being

**John 1:1-3 – *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” “The same was in the beginning with God” “All things were made by Him; and without him was not any thing made that was made”***

Everything that had a beginning came after, and are a result of, Wisdom’s plan

Wisdom was before anything and everything

Let’s stand to read

I’d like to think on this thought tonight

**“THE IDENTITY OF WISDOM”**

Let’s Read **vs. 22-36**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. AN “EVERLASTING TENURE” – vs. 22-29**

**Tenure –** *the permanent status of a position*

Solomon takes us back to eternity past (If there is such a thing)

Beyond time and space, as the Holy Spirit pulls aside the curtain to show us Wisdom abiding with the Godhead and actively participating in the creation of the universe

Then he brings us back down to earth to admire Wisdom's fingerprints on our planet

**A. His ‘Ancient Works’ – v.22, 23**

**v. 22 - *“The LORD possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old”***

I think the Holy Spirit uses the word ***“beginning”*** here to give those reading, a reference

**Ps. 90:2 – *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God”***

A starting place, for there is no beginning with God

The ***“beginning”*** is a reference to the 7 days of Creation

**Genesis 1:1 – *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”***

The ultimate application is to Christ

However, the immediate application is that of Wisdom

The thought at hand is that the LORD (Jehovah God) ***“possessed”***Wisdom long before He began His creative work

The point is that God’s Wisdom guided Him throughout His creative work

The word ***“possessed”***is a reference to what is owned, it also speaks of use in accomplishment

The works of Wisdom are evident in Creation

The intricate detail in the smallest things, to the vast expanse of the universe, testify to works of Wisdom

The perfect balance of the elements, the precise placement of the sun and moon, the speed of the world’s turning and its exact orbit, the wonders of the mind and body, the setting of the seasons, the formation of land and seas, all leave no doubt that it is the work of Divine intelligence

The personification thereof was our Lord Jesus Christ

**v. 23 - *“I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was”***

The words *“****set up”*** mean *to be anointed*

Wisdom was the anointed of God in eternity past, before the creation began

And isn’t Jesus the Anointed One of God?

From the beginning of time, our Lord has always been The Anointed

The words *Messiah* and *Christ* both mean *the Anointed One*

Most importantly, God the Son was the anointed One to bear the sins of the world

**I Peter 1:19, 20 *– “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” “Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”***

**Revelation 13:8 *– “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship Him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”***

**His ‘Ancient Works’**

**B. His ‘Appointed Wonders’ – vs. 24-29**

The Holy Spirit now confirms His statement made in **v.23** with the use of 3 words found in these verses

The words are ***“When” … “Before” …*** *&* ***“While”***

All indicate preexistence in performance

Wisdom was before the beginning and by Wisdom all things began

Wisdom was there...

**1. *“When”*** the Depths were Measured **– vs.24, 27b, 28b, 29**

**v. 24 - *“When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water …”***

The word ***“depths”*** refers to the oceans

The depth of the seas was measured by Wisdom

Wisdom decided how deep they would be, how much water they would contain how far they would reach

Wisdom also determined how much salt (if any) would be found in them as well as all the creatures that would inhabit them

***“brought forth” –*** means *to whirl in motion*

These words describe activity

Wisdom set in motion, the works of creation

**v. 27b - *“…when He set a compass upon the face of the depth”***

***“Compass” -*** indicates a circle and refers to the horizon

Wisdom determined where the land would meet the sea

**v. 28b - *“…when He strengthened the fountains of the deep”***

In **Genesis 7:11** it speaks of ***“the fountains of the great deep”*** being ***“broken up”***

And in **Genesis 8: 2** it says – ***“The fountains also of the deep … were stopped…”***

**v. 29 - *“When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment: when He appointed the foundations of the earth”***

Wisdom also laid down the law for the seas’ behavior

The laws by which the world is governed are those planned by Wisdom

They are ***“appointed”***

They are iron clad principles that cannot be changed

Wisdom was also there...

**2. *“Before”*** the Dust was Made **– vs. 25, 26**

Wisdom not only measured the depth of the seas

… but also the height of the mountains and hills

***“Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:” “While as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world”***

Wisdom also made every particle of dust

Did you know that rain cannot fall unless there is a particle of dust for it form around

 ***“the highest part of the dust of the world”***

Man was made from the dust of the ground and was formed by Infinite Wisdom

Dust is that infitestimal speck from which the human race has its origin

**Genesis 2:7 *– “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”***

So next time ladies you are tempted to curse *dust*

Just remember how important it is!

In addition Wisdom was there...

**3. *“While”*** the Designs were Manifested **– vs. 27a, 28a**

 ***“When He prepared the heavens, I was there”***

***“When He established the clouds above”***

***“prepared”*** & ***“established”*** –

… are words that refer to the plans and purposes of God’s design

Wisdom ***“prepared”*** the pattern of the heavens

*Before* anything manifested the glory of God …

Wisdom planned how everything would fit together

The architect plans the building before any work on it is done

The finished product is the creative act of His Wise Design

Wisdom precedes the Work

**Psalm 19:1 *– “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork”***

There has never been a time when Christ was not

He only left eternity to come to earth for a time

He came to die that man might live

**AN “ETERNAL TENURE”**

**II. AN “ENJOYABLE TIME” – vs. 30, 31**

**v. 30** uses 4 words that express God’s great love and compassion

The words are – ***“daily delight”,*** & ***“rejoicing always”***

***“daily delight”***  -

This does not refer to the passing of days but to the continual possession of joy

It was Delight without Disturbance

***“rejoicing always”*** - The Hebrew word pictures a child playing before his parents

This does not mean that Wisdom is as limited as a little child

It does not portray Inferiority but Intimacy

Its purpose is to state the loving and intimate relationship between the Father and Son

Their being together is consider always Enjoyable

**A. The Compassion of the Creator – v.30**

***“Then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him;”***

Throughout the creative process, Wisdom (in the person of Christ) was with God

Clearly implied is the fellowship and intimacy which existed between the Father and Son in eternity past

The One who here is describes in terms of time - ***“Then I was”*** …

Is the same One who elsewhere describes Himself in terms that transcends all time

**John 8:58 - *“Before Abraham was, I am”***

There never was a time when the Father, Son and Holy Spirit did not exist

The Father, Son & Holy Spirit were and are coexistent, coequal and coeternal

**B. The Company that He Keeps – v.31**

***“Rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth; and My delights were with the sons of men”***

Surely that is why God made man in His image

That is why God did not write man off when Adam sinned, but instead, had in place, a wondrous, infinite, and costly plan of salvation

The only explanation for God's infinite Love, Compassion, and Grace, for the poor lost sinners of Adam's ruined race, lies in His character

He loves us because He loves us

Moses explained it to Israel this way

**Deuteronomy 7:6-8a – *“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto Himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”***

Then, knowing how unlovely, complaining, and rebellious the Israelites were, Moses added …

***“The Lord did not set His love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people;***

***… for ye were the fewest of all people:” “But because the Lord loved you”***

He loved them because He loved them

Thus the Holy Spirit explained the inexplicable in the Character and Purposes of God

God's Purposes expressed to the churches are just as awesome

We are not only redeemed by the precious blood,

**1 Peter 1:19 –** ***“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:”***

… But we have also been made joint heirs with Him

**Romans 8:17 –** ***“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together”***

We are actually seated with Him in the Heavenlies, above principalities and powers and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in the world to come

**Ephesians 2:6 – *“And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”***

Moreover we are to be like Him for all eternity

**I John 3:2 – *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be:***

***… but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is”***

**AN “ETERNAL TENURE”**

**AN “ENJOYABLE TIME”**

**III. AN “ENDURING TRUST” – vs. 32-36**

I’m so glad I can Trust the Lord, and that, based solely on Who He is

**II Samuel 22:31 *– “As for God, His way is perfect; the Word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler (protector) to all them that Trust in Him”***

This part of our text begins with a call to those who will ***“hearken”***and ***“hear”* – vs. 32, 33**

Whenever we see the word ***“therefore”*** in the Bible

We need to stop and see *what it's there for*

The word ***“Therefore”*** should always draws our attention back to the preceding text

In this case the preceding text introduced us to Wisdom incarnate in Christ

No wonder we are told to ***“hearken”*** and ***“hear”***

**A. The ‘Listening’ – vs. 32, 33**

The Listening that needs to be Furnished

***“Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed* are they that *keep my ways” “Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not”***

Wisdom (in the person of Christ) therefore cries out for mankind to pay attention

There indeed are rich blessings for those who Hearken to Wisdom and Heed the Word of God

Someone can never go wrong by following after godly Wisdom; that is, following after Jesus Christ

They are virtually synonymous

The appeal here for our attention is because there are so many other things bidding for it

***“seek ye first … and all these things shall be added”***

The ones who listen will be Blessed

***“for blessed are they that keep my ways”***

The listening that is furnished must be found with faith or it is without profit

**Hebrews 4:2 *– “For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it”***

With the Listening that is Furnished there is also...

 **B. The ‘Life’ – vs. 34, 35**

The Life that is Found by Hearkening

**v.34 - *“Blessed is the man that heareth Me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at the posts of My doors”***

We show our sincerity to what is being spoken by taking advantage of every opportunity to hear the Word of God preached

This is emphasized by …

**1.** The Period Observed - ***“daily”***

We need to be daily in the Word and Prayer

**2.** The Place Occupied - ***“at my gates”*** and ***“at the posts of my doors”***

Weekly in the Church house, where God’s Word is Preached

***“Waiting”*** – people will wait for days to get a ticket to some event or to buy some new gadget

But where are those who can’t wait to get with God or to church?

The sign of enduring trust is the willingness to be Faithful

**v. 35 - *“For whoso findeth Me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD”***

The word “***findeth”*** implies a search

A effort must be made but it is not a search without success

The reward for the labor is Life

It is a life that now is and is to come

**I Timothy 4:8 –** ***“For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come”***

And this Life is found only in God’s Son

**John 17:3 *- “And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”***

The ***“favour of the LORD”***

This phrase denotes the acceptance and approval of God

It is the warmth of His smile, the affectionate touch of His hand and the tender embrace of His arms

It is His power Extended to our needs

It is His Enablement for our work

It is what He does to make Effective what we do

It is a Life flooded with heavenly blessings

In rejection of Wisdom’s offer there is...

**C. The ‘Liability’ – v.36**

***“But he that sinneth against Me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate Me love death”***

The Liability that is Faced

There is only one alternative to the choice of obtaining Wisdom

And it is the choice of death

Love for anything that keeps us from the love of Christ ends in death

The liability that is faced is endless loss

**CONCLUSION**

**AN “ETERNAL TENURE”**

**AN “ENJOYABLE TIME”**

**AN “ENDURING TRUST”**