WISDOM’S BOUNDLESS BLESSINGS

**DATE: 11/8/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 9:1-6**

**INTRODUCTION**

Wisdom has been pictured and personified as a wise woman

She has been deliberately contrasted with the harlot, the wicked woman

We have seen that Wisdom's plea is public, her riches are real, and her influence is infinite

Now we will see that her friends are fortunate, her blessings are boundless, her foes are fools, and her path is pure

Let’s stand to read **vs. 1-6** and then pray

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. HER “HOUSE” – v.1**

***“Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars”***

In chapter 7 we saw the Harlot had a house to which she lured her victims

Here in chapter 9, Wisdom has a house to which she invites her pupils

The Bible is not specific as to what these 7 Pillars are

Last time we looked at them in reference to **James 3:17**

Some scholars think the ***“seven pillars”*** refer to the pillars of the inner court of the temple

Which would be a reasonable thought, seeing Solomon would have great familiarity with that

Others think the reference is to the church

Which I think is a stretch, but it certainly will preach

The early church needed to be built on Wisdom

**I Timothy 3:15** ***– “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”***

We see that the church is built on 7 Precepts…

**A.** **Salvation**

Only saved people should be members of a church

We call this Regenerated Church Membership

**Acts 2:47 - *“And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”***

That’s why we don’t baptize babies

**Acts 13:48** ***– “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the Word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed”***

There needs to be evidence that someone is truly saved

Consider the following Scriptures that teach that salvation is accompanied by evidence

**I John 2:3, 4 –** ***“And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” “He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him”***

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

**Titus 1:16** warned about those who profess Christ but deny Him by their works

***“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate”***

In **II Timothy 2:19** we see that the seal of salvation is two-fold

***“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal; The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity”***

The truth is that God knows those who are His

And that the true believer will demonstrate His salvation by departing from iniquity

Departing from iniquity is not the *Way* of salvation; it is the *Evidence* of salvation
 **Ephesians 2:8-10 –** ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
“Not of works, lest any man should boast” “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”***

Though salvation is ***“not of works”*** in that it is God’s free gift through Christ, it is ***“unto good works”***

It is that, it will Result in good works

The good works are really God’s works, manifesting themselves in the individual’s life

The good works are the Evidence

**John 3:3** teaches that salvation is a supernatural birth that changes the individual’s life

Consider the conversions described in the Gospels under Christ’s earthly ministry

In every case the individual’s life was dramatically changed

e.g., the woman at the well in **John 4** and Zacchaeus in **Luke 19** just to name a few

Consider the conversions described in the book of Acts

Again, in every case the individual’s life was dramatically changed

e.g., those who were saved on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2**, the Ethiopian eunuch in **Acts 8**, Paul in **Acts 9**, Lydia and the Philippian jailor in **Acts 16**

Consider the believers at Thessalonica who modeled genuine salvation

**1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10 –** ***“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God;” “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come”***

**B. Baptism**

Believers were baptized by immersion, publicly confessing their faith in Christ

Baptism is an outward sign of an inward change

**Acts 2:41 –** ***“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”***

**C. Doctrine**

The teaching of the apostles, as inspired by the Holy Spirit,

Was an essential part of the structure of the early church

**Ephesians 2:20** – ***“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone;”***

**I Timothy 4:6 – *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained”***

**D. Fellowship**

Believers are to love each other

**I John 3:14 *– “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death”***

**I Corinthians 13:4-8a …**

**E. The Lord’s Supper**

This remembrance was /is observed in obedience to the Lord's command

**Luke 22:19 – *“And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is My body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of Me”***

**I Corinthians 11:25 *– “After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, …***

***… This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me”***

**F. Prayer**

The early Christians realized that God's people have an access into the holy of holies that was denied to all but the high priest in Old Testament times

**Acts 4:31** – ***“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the Word of God with boldness”***

**G. Giving**

The early church showed compassion toward those with needs

**Acts 2:44 *– “And all that believed were together, and had all things common;”***

**Acts 4:32** – ***“And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common”***

Truly Salvation, Baptism, Doctrine, Fellowship, the Lord’s Supper, Prayer, and Giving

… Could be considered the 7 Pillars of Wisdom

Any church built on these pillars will be Wise

**Acts 2:41-47 …**

The early church certainly was

Paul told us it is in the church that the principalities and powers in the Heavenlies can see the Manifold (Great) Wisdom of God displayed

**Ephesians 3:10 *– “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God”***

 **HER “HOUSE”**

**II. HER “HOSPITALITY” –vs. 2, 3**

Wisdom's blessings not only include her House

But also her Hospitality

First Solomon speaks of her …

**A. ‘Supper’ – v.2, 5**

***“She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table” “Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled”***

Wisdom is portrayed here as a meal to which many will be invited to partake

This is a choice meal adequately **“*furnished”*** for the guests

Wisdom gives the best …

**Psalm 23:5** says – **“*Thou preparedest a table”***

Wisdom satisfies …

**John 4:14 - “*Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst”***

The Gospel table is a sumptuous feast

It has spared no expense

The guests have nothing to do with the preparation

All anyone needs to bring is an appetite

All who eat at this table find complete satisfaction

Some are limited in what they like

But everything set on this table suits the tastes of those who sit at it

The thought is how that wisdom acquired …

Is to him who gets it, great riches and blessing

Wisdom places someone in an elite class

Solomon not only speaks about her **Supper**

But also speaks of her …

**B. ‘Summons’ –v. 3**

***“She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city”***

These verses give us a picture of a bountiful banquet to which all are invited

There is nothing secretive or selective about Wisdom's invitation

The feast is spread

Those hungry for the insights she gives can come and eat and be filled

You have a choice; receive the instruction of the world

Or receive God’s instruction

My experience has been that the Bible is a bountiful table of Wisdom

I find more help, insight, and instruction, and more practical, reliable, down-to-earth counsel in half a dozen verses of the Word of God than in all the volumes of any encyclopedia put together

I never sit down to Wisdom's table and come away feeling empty

**HER “HOUSE”**

**HER “HOSPITALITY”**

**III. HER “HELP” – vs. 4, 6**

Here we see to whom, the maidens’ of Wisdom cry

Wisdom's Blessings also include her Help

First, let’s look at …

1. **Her ‘Priority’ – vs. 4**

Where is the Priority in her Help?

***“Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,”***

Help that is available particularly to simple people

The Simple refers to someone in need of instruction and who recognize the need for it

It indicates a lack of spiritual insight but has a willingness to be taught

Jesus said in **Mark 2:17 *– “When Jesus heard it, He saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”***

Is that you? / hope so

Notice it says – ***“wanteth understanding”***

D. L. Moody, was essentially a simple man,

He heard Wisdom's call

He ate at her table and drank her wine

He was so wise that even the great ones of this world wondered at him

They said of him what had been said of Jesus

**Matthew 13:54 - *“Whence hath this man this wisdom...?”***

**Acts 4:13 *– “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus”***

Then lastly, let’s look at …

1. **Her ‘Principle’ – v.6**

Still talking to the Simple …

Wisdom states her Principle

***“Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding”***

Rehoboam comes to mind

What a different course Israel would have taken if Rehoboam had listened to this one proverb

Instead of forsaking the counsel of the old men, he should have forsaken the counsel of the foolish young hooligans who crowded around him – **II Chron. 10**

***“Forsake the foolish, and live”***

Never was this advice more appropriate than during the time of Korah rebellion

Korah, Moses' cousin, joined forces with Dathan and Abiram, princes of Reuben, to oust Moses and Aaron

The three rebels resented the leadership of Moses

They envied and coveted their positions of authority in both the secular and sacred realms

Then God stepped in

The stage was set for a showdown

Moses, aware that God was about to act in fearful judgment upon these foolish and their followers, appealed to the whole congregation

**Numbers 16:26 - *“Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins”***

Then the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up all the conspirators

**Numbers 16:34 – *“And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also”***

They were not a moment too soon

The supernatural earthquake was followed by …

***“fire from the Lord”*** **– Num. 16:35**

It consumed 250 Korah sympathizers

The results of following Solomon's advice may not always be this spectacular,

But they are always just as sure

Thru-out the Bible God gives examples of what will happen to the foolish

Both in **Palms 14:1** and **53:1** we see the same thought

**Psalm 14:1 –** ***“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good”***

The warning is to – “***Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding”***

**CONCLUSION**