

Text: Pr 1.8

We will turn to studying the message of Proverbs now, beginning with the call to acquire wisdom.

Pr 1.8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

"Wisdom is for anyone who wants it. Fools and simpletons are invited by name to its feast, which is as free as that of folly (9.4, 16)."¹

Wisdom:

Pr 9.4 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" ...

Folly:

Pr 9.16 "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here," ...

Despite these competing invitations, God lays out some stipulations (Pr 2.6-9):

For whom does God store up wisdom? **The upright, the godly**

Consequently, where does acquiring wisdom begin? (Pr 1.7)

With the fear of the Lord

"wisdom comes in a person's relationship with God. It is not learned at universities. It is spiritual and practical, not intellectual."²

Though true wisdom belongs to those who follow the Lord, who does God invite to receive wisdom? (Pr 1.20-23) **the naïve and simple, the scoffers and fools**

What is the response of many? (Pr 1.24-25) **refusal**

What is the consequence of refusal? (Pr 1.26-33) **destruction**

¹ Derek Kidner, *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries 17 (Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1964), 35.

² Terry Rude, "Wisdom in Proverbs," *Biblical Viewpoint: Focus on Proverbs* 23, no. 2 (November 1999): 9.

The attitude of the seeker (Pr 2.1-5)

What does the “if” imply in verse 1? **The son has a choice**

“The ‘if’ represents a decision that every young man must make. He can either go the way of Wisdom and find life, true love, and most importantly God, or he can turn his back on her and find only bitterness, isolation, and death. One cannot opt out of this decision by choosing a little of one and a little of the other.”³

What heart attitudes must the son have in v. 1? **Willingness to receive; desire to treasure**

How does a son prepare himself to receive wisdom? (2)

Orient his inner man: open ears, incline heart

What do the terms of vv. 3 & 4 imply about the search for wisdom?

You must cry out for it, you must dig it out of base soils, like hidden treasure

Where do you arrive at the end of this search? (5, cf. 9)

At the fear of the Lord; at the knowledge of God

Considering the consequences of wisdom and folly (2.6-22)

If you truly receive wisdom, you know where it comes from. Wisdom gives good **theology** (6-8)

How will wisdom guard you? (10-12) **keep you from the path of evil**

The passage sees the young man delivered from two people who embody folly in vv. 12-19. Who are they?

(12) **the man who speaks perverse things [easy money]**

(16) **the strange woman [easy pleasure]**

How do these people lead young men astray?

(12) **speaking perverse things**

(16) **flattering with words**

³ Duane A Garrett, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*, The New American Commentary (Nashville, Tenn.: Broadman Press, 1993), 74.

Compare the invitation in verse 1, what does a foolish son ignore?

The words and commandments of his father

“Both the words of the father and those of the apostates have dynamic spiritual powers for good and evil on the community (see 8.13; 10.31; 17.20).”⁴

- The power that influences you depends on who you listen to

What is the destination of perverse paths? (13, 18-19)

Darkness, death

What is the destination of wisdom? (20-21)

Fellowship with good men, walk on right paths, long life in the land, personal security

⁴ Bruce K Waltke, *The Book of Proverbs: Chapters 1-15*, The New International Commentary on the Old Testament (Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub., 2004), 229.