

God Loves Wise Guys

(Proverbs 8)

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Introduction

Throughout history, there have always been secret societies...

Which are nothing more than groups of people that keep their inner functioning, events and activities concealed from non-members..

There are 100s of them in existence today...

Some of the more famous ones are the Illuminati, the Knights Templar, the Freemasons, Skull and Bones, the Bilderberg Group and so on and so on...

Questions always arise in terms of these groups...

Who are they?

What do they do?

What is the mission?

And the internet has done much to reveal many of their secrets...

People who have left these groups have often spilled the secrets on them after their exit...

Yet, most still exist and continue to meet regularly...

So what is the biblical worldview of these secret societies?

And my response is always this...

God is not a God of secrets....

God is not a God that conceals truths from mankind...

God has opened up his mind and heart to the world in the Bible....

Sure, there are things that God only knows but what he reveals, He reveals to all mankind...

Christianity is not a secret way to God...

Jesus even said that you don't light a candle and put it under a basket...

Instead you light a candle and so everyone can see..

And I think that is reason enough to see that secret societies stand contrary to God and His way of doing things...

God is not a God that is hard to find...

And being saved is not a matter of being given enough secrets...

God is there for those who desire Him and being saved is available for all who can hear and respond in faith...

Now, nowhere is that more clear in the Bible than in the book of Proverbs...

Where we have been told already that God's wisdom is available...

God has not taken his wisdom and hidden under a basket...

No, God has taken his wisdom and put it in black and white on the pages of Scripture to all who would simply open the Bible and read...

So tonight in Proverbs 8 we are once again going to be reminded of some characteristics of God's wisdom....

And we are going to be reminded of the need to take hold of God's wisdom as we live in the world....

So, let's begin in verses 1-11 of Proverbs 8 where we once again see that..

I. Wisdom is Attainable (1-11)

Now when we come to the book of Proverbs, we come to the height of wisdom books in the Bible...

Job, Psalms, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon are all considered the wisdom book of the Bible...

And that is kind of misleading because all 66 books of the Bible reveal the wisdom of God....

Yet, these 6 books seem to overflow with God's wisdom...

And we we think of wisdom, we simply define wisdom as how to live right in a wrong world...

In other words, godly wisdom helps us to make good decisions even in less than perfect world...

Now obviously, the book of Proverbs doesn't tell you if you should start that business or marry that guy or go to that school or spend that money...

But biblical wisdom does put out the guardrails for all those decisions....

Godly wisdom puts in the place to make the right decisions though the details of those choices may be different for everyone else...

So as we come to Proverbs 8, we are being persuaded once again of the value of God's wisdom...

And a great selling point of seeking the wisdom of God is that it is easily found...

It is attainable...

Let me read verses 1-4 of Proverbs 8 for us tonight..

***1 Does not wisdom call,
And understanding [a]lift up her voice?***

2

***On top of the heights beside the way,
Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;***

3

***Beside the gates, at the opening to the city,
At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:***

4

***"To you, O men, I call,
And my voice is to the sons of men.***

Take note of where wisdom makes itself available...

Verse 2...

Wisdom calls on the heights beside the way...

In other words, wisdom calls from a high place...

In Whitmire, we had an all volunteer fire department and ambulance service...

And when a call for help came into the town, the dispatcher would sound the alarm...

If the sound of the alarm went up and down, it was calling the fire men to come....

If it stayed the same, it was calling the paramedics...

And where did they mount the siren?

On top of a high pole in the middle of town and the siren rotated 360 degrees...

And what was the point of that?

To make sure the sound went out in all directions and that it went out from a high place, which makes it easy to be heard from long distances....

Wisdom calls out from the heights by the roadside...

But not only high but also where the paths meets....

In other words, wisdom calls out at the cross-roads...

Why a place where paths meet?

Because that is usually a very busy place where travelers come and go...

But also at the city gates which would be another well crowded space..

And what is the point of wisdom calling from all these places?

The point is that God has made his wisdom available throughout the world....

God is not the head of a secret society that meets in a dark alley in the middle of nowhere...

Rather God has made his wisdom available and attainable....

And look at what wisdom says as it cries out in the world....

Verse 5..

5

*“O [b]naive ones, understand prudence;
And, O fools, understand [c]wisdom.*

6

“Listen, for I will speak noble things;

And the opening of my lips will reveal right things.

7

“For my mouth will utter truth;

And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8

“All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness;

There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

9

“They are all straightforward to him who understands,

And right to those who find knowledge.

10

“Take my instruction and not silver,

And knowledge rather than choicest gold.

11

“For wisdom is better than [d]jewels;

And all desirable things cannot compare with her.

The call of God to gain wisdom is a call to the foolish and naive people of the world...

Some people in the world just don't seem to get it...

And according to verse 5, that is actually true...

They don't have understanding, so God calls them to gain his wisdom...

And according to verse 6, godly wisdom is noble and right...

According to verse 7, godly wisdom is full of truth and empty of evil..

According to verse 8, godly wisdom is righteous living...

According to verse 9, godly wisdom is straightforward...

And according to verses 10-11, godly wisdom is valuable....

So the call of wisdom to the world is this...

Do you want to live right?

Do you want to know truth?

Do you want to avoid evil?

Do you want to understand and own something of value?

Well, then open your Bibles and your hearts and seek the wisdom of God...

I have people come to me with the same counseling questions that often come down to this...

I don't understand why this happened and I don't understand what to do about it...

And my response is always...

Let's go the word of God to get understanding of the situation and then let's see how the Bible would have us to deal with it...

Now sometimes the response to that is good and people want to know what God would say about their problems and what God would want them to do...

But often, that answer is rejected by people who see that as too easy a solution or too simple a solution..

And they will give up biblical counseling for a psychologist or psychiatrist...

Thinking that they have more wisdom than God's word...

Wisdom would say, "You fool. You are trading God's word for the words of man.."

"You are giving up truth for lies and undemanding for confusion.."

You see the clear thought of verses 1-11 of Proverbs 8 is this...

Wisdom is out there for the taking...

It is on the rooftops calling...

In the streets crying out...

No need to join a secret society or search for God's wisdom in a dark alley...

God has made his wisdom available to any who aren't too lazy or uninterested to pick up and read their Bible...

In other words, God's wisdom is accessible...

The second characteristic of wisdom is this...

II. Wisdom is Sensible (12-16)

Verses 12-16

12

***“I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
And I find knowledge and discretion.***

13

***“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way
And the perverted mouth, I hate.***

14

***“Counsel is mine and sound wisdom;
I am understanding, power is mine.***

15

***“By me kings reign,
And rulers decree justice.***

16

***“By me princes rule, and nobles,
All who judge rightly.***

The key word of this section is the word prudence of verse 12...

Prudence means to act carefully...

Prudent people look both ways before they cross the street...

People who lack prudence walk without looking...

The opposite of prudence is reckless..

Young children lack prudence....

They will run into the street without looking...

They are reckless...

And what verses 12-16 say is this...

Wisdom helps you live carefully in the world...

Wisdom calls you to fear God and hate evil...

Avoiding evil is a way to live carefully in the world...

Wisdom calls you to avoid using and listening to people with evil mouths...

In other words, wisdom leads to sensible living...

And the picture of verses 15-16 is the picture of an ordered way of life that comes through human governments...

Though governments at times do evil things, governments bring order to the world...

Kings reign and uphold justice and the world is kept in order...

And the lesson is that wisdom will give order to your life...

It will take the chaos of your world and put it in order...

The recent riots on college campuses show you a great example of reckless living...

Those are lives out of order...

Filled with chaos and not submissive to the rule of law...

In those situations, cars are set on fire, people use violence and deaths occur...

Wisdom helps us to live sensibly even in a fallen world...

The 3rd characteristic of wisdom is this...

III. Wisdom is Beneficial (17-21)

Though we have already seen many benefits of wisdom in this chapter and in the book of Proverbs, we are now given a short list of the benefits of acquiring wisdom in verses 17-21...

17

***“I love those who love me;
And those who diligently seek me will find me.***

18

***“Riches and honor are with me,
Enduring wealth and righteousness.***

19

***“My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold,
And my yield better than choicest silver.***

20

***“I walk in the way of righteousness,
In the midst of the paths of justice,***

21

***To endow those who love me with wealth,
That I may fill their treasuries.***

In those verses, you see 2 clear benefits of wisdom...

#1 - Wisdom lead to financial prosperity.

Now, make no mistake here...

This is not a promise of wealth for all those who seek wisdom...

There are many believers who struggle financially but there promise is not of a large bank account but rather a bottomless bank account...

And the reason that wealth is tied to wisdom is this...

Wise people know the value of work and generally speaking, hard work leads to financial stability...

But also this...

Wise people know the source of all wealth as well...

You see Christians don't have to go to the bank to get money, they live in the vault...

To know God is to know the inventor and holder of all the monies in the world...

So to have godly wisdom is to have the promise that God will supply all your needs in Christ Jesus...

But financial prosperity is not the only benefit of wisdom...

#2 - Wisdom leads to personal prosperity..

Verse 18 says that wisdom leads to honor and righteousness....

There are some things better than gold and that is the value of a good name and the testimony of a well lived life...

Money can be lost and banks go broke, but the value of godly character cannot be lost...

Wisdom leads to honor among men...

A fourth characteristic of wisdom is found in verse 22-31, and I found this real interesting...

IV. Wisdom is Eternal (22-31)

Verse 22...

22 “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way,

Before His works [e]of old.

23

“From everlasting I was [f]established,

From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.

The idea here is that wisdom exists before the earth existed and before man existed...

God is all wise and therefore wisdom is eternal...

According to verse 22, God possessed wisdom at the beginning of the world...

So God used wisdom in creating the world....

Verse 24...

“When there were no depths I was [g]brought forth,

When there were no springs abounding with water.

25

“Before the mountains were settled,

Before the hills I was [h]brought forth;

26

*While He had not yet made the earth and the
[i]fields,
Nor the first dust of the world.*

27

*“When He established the heavens, I was there,
When He inscribed a circle on the face of the
deep,*

28

*When He made firm the skies above,
When the springs of the deep became [j]fixed,*

29

*When He set for the sea its boundary
So that the water would not transgress His
[k]command,
When He marked out the foundations of the earth;*

30

*Then I was beside Him, as a master workman;
And I was daily His delight,
[l]Rejoicing always before Him,*

31

*[m]Rejoicing in the world, His earth,
And having my delight in the sons of men.*

Each of these verses speak of wisdom’s work in creating the world...

Wisdom was there for every day of creation as God brought forth the earth from the waters of the deep...

As God established the mountains and hills...

As God made the fields and set the boundaries of the oceans, wisdom was there...

And notice this in verses 30-31....

Wisdom rejoiced in what God did at creation....

Remember, when God was done, he called his creation very good...

And also notice what the second half of verse 26 says...

Wisdom was there before the dust of the world was made...

Now, what is this a reference to?

What is man made of?

Well, the Bible is clear, Adam was made of the dust of the earth that God took and formed and then breathed into that body the breath of life...

In other words, godly wisdom was around before man was even made...

Now this is important...

Before Bill Cosby was caught in all his scandal, the Cosby show was a huge hit...

And one of the most famous lines of the show was when Cliff Huxtable (who was played by Cosby) was talking to his son Theo one day about his bad grades...

And he simply told him, "I brought you into this world and I'll take you out..."

And the idea is this...

I was around before you were even born and I will be around after you are gone...

Well, the call of wisdom is this....

Men, women, boys, girls, I was around before you were even made and I will be around after you are gone...

So, it is time to listen to what I have to say...

You see, here is the problem...

People see themselves as wiser than God...

People set themselves above God's wisdom...

"They know how to live right."

Been doing good so far with out God, so why would they need his wisdom now...

Yet, the problem is this...

They are living according to human wisdom and human wisdom will come to an end...

Only the wisdom of God is eternal...

And since godly wisdom put the world together and man together, it may be a good idea to seek after wisdom...

One final characteristic of wisdom tonight, and it is found in verses 32-36....

V. Wisdom is Advisable (32-36)

Verse 32...

32

***“Now therefore, O sons, listen to me,
For blessed are they who keep my ways.***

33

***“Heed instruction and be wise,
And do not neglect it.***

34

***“Blessed is the man who listens to me,
Watching daily at my gates,
Waiting at my doorposts.***

35

***“For he who finds me finds life
And obtains favor from the Lord.***

36

***“But he who [n]sins against me injures himself;
All those who hate me love death.”***

In case you had forgotten already, the book of Proverbs says that seeking wisdom is a good idea...

It is advisable...

And the clear call to wisdom is seen here again in the end of chapter 8...

Listen to wisdom and be blessed....

Take instruction of wisdom and be wise...

Love wisdom and you will find life...

Hate wisdom and you will find death...

And please notice verse 34...

34

***“Blessed is the man who listens to me,
Watching daily at my gates,***

How often should you seek godly wisdom?

Look for it daily...

That is why it isn't church talk and preacher speak to encourage people to have a time of being in the Bible each day...

To pass up a day of the Bible is to pass up a day of seeing the wisdom of God on the pages of Scripture...

Look, I don't want you to have a daily time in the Bible for my sake, but for your sake and for your blessing...

Don't neglect it or pass it up...

You make time to eat every day, so make time to read the Bible every day...

Conclusion

Let me end with this....

There was a young man heading off to college in the early 1950s...

He was traveling to a school over 300 miles away so his father and mother carefully packed all his belongings including his Bible and put him on the train...

They encouraged him to read his Bible and do his best and to send letters as often as possible...

Well, the boy got to college and away from his parents and began to live wildly...

He was quickly out of money and wrote a letter to his parents asking them to send some money...

His father replied and asked about his son before sending any money...

Have you been living right and reading your Bible?

The son quickly wrote back and deceitfully replied that he was living right and reading his Bible every day...

The father replied with a couple verses that could be very helpful to him in terms of trusting God for financial help in times of need and asked his son to read them before he would send any money...

Frustrated the boy replied with a lie, "Dad, I read the verses you sent but I still need money."

His dad replied, "Well, we have no money to send. We like you have held on to those verses when our funds run low. It is now your turn to trust God to supply your needs."

After receiving this letter, the boy tore it up in frustration and threw his Bible in the corner of his room...

Once it landed upside down, the boy noticed something unusual about it..

He went over and picked it up where he found a \$100 bill stuck on the chapter and verses that his dad had been asking him to read...

The parents had simply stuck in there to see if their son was actually reading what he was being told to read..

Now, look there are no \$100 bills in your Bible, and if you do happen to find on, it is God's way of proving for your pastor...

There are no \$100 dollar bills, but there is something of way more value on the pages of Scripture...

And that is the wisdom of God that HE has made available to you...

Don't be a fool and pass up God's wisdom...

Make it a part of your day, everyday.

Let us pray.