

Wisdom's Cry

Introduction (Text: Proverbs 1:20-33)

We talk so much about obeying the Bible, but we do not always do much about it. We really ought to do more in actual practice because the Bible itself calls upon us to do so.

Before we can obey the Bible, God's word, we need to read, study it and know what it says (2 Timothy 2:15). God's word is the source of wisdom that will make the difference in our lives. We must learn to know, study it properly, and then put that wisdom into practice in our lives.

The book of **Proverbs** says much about wisdom. It would certainly be to our advantage to listen to what it has to say. **This is not man's wisdom, it is the wisdom that comes from God.**

#1: Wisdom Weeping (Proverbs 1:20-21)

A. Wisdom identified

1. **Personified**—viewed as if human
2. **Actually found fully in the person of Christ.** If we want to see God's wisdom lived out in this world, look to Jesus.
3. **It also comes through prophets and teachers and preachers.** It is important that what I speak to you be the word of God. It is my responsibility and it is your responsibility to hold me accountable.
4. **True wisdom is recorded for us in the Word—the Bible.**

B. Wisdom located

1. **Out in the open:** nothing necessary in divine wisdom is ever hidden. There may be things that we would like to know and understand, but that are not necessary for us to know. God may choose not to reveal that to us, but what we NEED to know, God makes available to us, if we listen to him.
2. **Wisdom is where people are**
 - a. The message is clearer than we like to admit
 - b. Most people know more than they like to admit

#2: Wisdom Warning (Proverbs 1:22-31)

A. Warning sounded (vv. 22-23)

1. **How long?**
 - a. Will the simple (those ignorant through carelessness and indifference) love simplicity?
 - b. Will the scoffers (those who hold things in derision) delight in scoffing?

c. Will fools (those who hate knowledge because of its restraints) hate knowledge?

2. *Call to repentance—“Turn and be helped”*

a. Turn when reprov'd (put self under my reproof)

b. Be helped—if you will repent

1) I will pour out My spirit upon you.

2) I will make known My words to you (If we turn to God He will give us what we need to know and do. The usual reason for our confusion is failure to do right.)

B. Warning strengthened (vv. 24-31)

1. *Refusal (vv. 24-25)*

a. I have called and reached out

1) By preachers, etc.

2) God has tried to get His message across

b. I have been refused and disregarded (general tendency, especially among young, to disregard wisdom and instruction)

2. *Reaction (vv. 26-28)*

a. I will hold you in derision in time of need. (This is not as crass as it seems. He traces the reaction of wisdom as the results of rejection begin to work themselves out. Notice the strong words.)

b. When they call in time of deep need, there is no answer because judgment is already falling.

3. *Ruin (vv. 29-31)*

a. Fools have made their own choices (calamity is the result of their own ways). We often blame God for what we have done.

b. Fools have rejected attempts to help them.

c. Fools will get back the results of their own foolish choices and perverse ways.

1) Both in this life and the life to come

2) Sowing and reaping prominent here

#3: Wisdom Weighing (Proverbs 1:32-33)

A. Fools

1. *Destruction and ruin*

a. Their own choices destroy them (destroy themselves).

b. Their own prosperity becomes their downfall (carelessness, unconcern, carnal security produced by worldly success).

c. Rebellion against God is the chief cause.

2. They end up where they were heading

B. Wise men

1. Security and spiritual peace
 - a. Listeners shall dwell safely (confidently).
 - b. Listeners shall have quiet from fear of evil (note stress on freedom from fear).
2. They end up where God has been leading them (**Jeremiah 29:11**)

Conclusion

Wisdom continues to cry out—only in stronger and fuller form—the Word of God. Men, including Christian men, continue to ignore the cries and appeals of wisdom. Men especially turn away from the teaching of the Word.

There is always a balance beam. Every individual can climb on one side or the other. Will you hear, heed and follow, or will you close your eyes and ears and go your own way? The ultimate outcome is up to you. Throughout time and eternity you will reap the fruit of the decision you make now regarding wisdom.

Jesus put it this way: (Matthew 7:24-27)-the wise and foolish builders.