

IV. Wisdom's Assurance (8:32-36)

- A. Listen and you will be blessed.
 - i. Lady Wisdom's power to bless is in her words.
 - ii. This is why the Word of God has always been central in the ministry of the church.

➤ 2 Timothy 2:15

- B. Just as Wisdom (in v30) was daily YHWH's delight; now (v34) Wisdom is to be our daily delight.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What meaning, if any, should we draw from the fact that as the *narrative* section of Proverbs (1–9) winds down, the father's voice fades and Wisdom's voice comes to the forefront?
- How does this chapter show that Wisdom's power to bless is in her words? What are some ways we should respond to this?
- Compare the description of the words of the seductress in Proverbs 7 with those of Lady Wisdom in Proverbs 8. How do they differ?
- What does it mean to say that though it may make good sense to marry Lady Wisdom, she will only marry for love? How does this rule out “trying Jesus” as merely a practical measure to insure against possibilities rather than a true relationship?
- If we are going to go on walks with the fair-maiden Wisdom, where are we going to have to walk? How does this speak to the fact that Wisdom is not only going to upgrade our associations, but will also upgrade our manner of life?
- Discuss and explain the statement: *Only Christianity offers a true and meaningful humanism.*

Hearing Wisdom's Voice

Jerry Cisar — May 31, 2015

Text: Proverbs 8

Introduction: Wisdom the Fair Maiden

- A. In chapter 6-7, it was “*the smooth talk of a wayward woman,*” which carried the power of her seduction.
 - i. What is the parents' teaching & instruction?
 - ii. In Proverbs 8, Wisdom herself enters into the task of persuading the son, all sons (and daughters), into this grand romance, this life-giving marriage...

- B. The Father's Voice Fades Away

I. Wisdom's Appeal (8:1-11)

- A. Wisdom's power to bless is in her words.

Kidner comments, “*A chapter which is to soar beyond time and space, opens at street level ...*”

- i. The foolish heart readily accepts foolishness and resists truth and right.
- ii. Wisdom's Words: *Trustworthy, right, true, just, upright; none of them is crooked or perverse.*

Weeks: “*one is a liar who seduces the unprepared to sin and death, while the other leads them through truth to divine approval and life.*”

B. The fair-maiden Wisdom actively seeks us out.

C. What is the Fair-maiden Wisdom's hook?

i. *“Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold...”*

ii. Vs. 11 and the *sort-of* answer.

II. Wisdom's Standing (8:12-21)

A. Fair-maiden Wisdom has high associations. (12-16)

i. Wisdom's ways will effect our lives. (Proverbs 14:35; 16:13; Proverbs 22:11)

ii. As our relationship to Wisdom increases our associations will become more like hers.

B. But there is a catch. (17-21)

i. Marrying Wisdom may be a serious case of marrying up, logically the best decision you could ever make, but Fair-maiden Wisdom will only marry for love!

ii. Remember, the *“finding me”* (17) is the finding or obtaining in marriage.

iii. To love Lady Wisdom rather than choice gold is the same as *“seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”* Or *“lay up treasures in heaven.”*

iv. To marry Wisdom is to choose to walk in a new way of life. It is not only marrying up in standing, it is marrying up in manner of life!

III. Wisdom's Supremacy (8:22-31)

A. Wisdom is supreme because Wisdom existed long before anything else. (22-26)

i. Wisdom surpasses everything else, because it precedes everything else.

ii. Wisdom knows what she is talking about (Job 15:7-9)

B. Wisdom is supreme because Wisdom observed the ordering of all things. (27-29)

Waltke: Humanity's physical existence depends on a firmly structured universe. The LORD'S fixed created order serves as a model of his fixed moral boundaries for human beings to prevent society from collapsing into anarchy.

C. Wisdom is supreme because of God's Delight in Wisdom from ages past. (30-31)

i. Wisdom was there frolicking before God in ages past.

ii. YHWH was delighting daily in Wisdom.

iii. Wisdom rejoices in the world and delights in mankind.

a) Only Christianity offers a true and meaningful humanism.

b) The highest glory man can have is when we recognize God's greater glory.