

The Proverbs

The Call of Sinners and the Call of Wisdom

PROVERBS 1:8-33

Review: The foundation of understanding the Proverbs is the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7; 31:30). Wisdom without a fear of God is foolishness (Ecc. 2:15; 1 Cor. 3:19).

1. The Call to Heed Instruction (vs.8-9)

This is a call to the son not to waste the good blessing of wise instruction. A wise son will both be active in responding to the this teaching (v.8) and not remain inactive when this instruction is give (v.9).

2. The Call of Sinners (vs.10-19)

A. The Precept for When Sinners Call (v.10)

This is the short summary and memorable statement that is to govern the son's response to the call of the sinners; do not consent.

B. The Promise Sinners Make (vs.11-14)

The father speaks not as that those who will seek to entice his son, but he gives the truth behind the veiled promises without disarming euphemisms.

C. The Prediction of Sinful Realities (vs.15-18)

While the plan of the wicked is to harm the unwary, it turns out that they are utterly foolish in their pursuits and will end up turning on one another. The promised equal portion (v.14) is ultimately found in their own blood.

D. The Principle of Participating with Sinners (v.19)

Similar to the opening summary, the father shows that while the promised gains are high, the cost is much higher.

3. The Call of Wisdom (vs.20-33)

A. The Force of Wisdom's Call (vs.20-21)

Wisdom here is pictured as an evangelist who is trying to make her voice heard over the loud noise of uninterested people.

B. The Proclamation of Wisdom (vs.22-23)

She tries to arrest their attention by promising the blessings of wisdom.

C. The Consequence of Rejecting Wisdom (vs.24-31)

There is a time and place when someone can respond to wisdom; once that time is passed, the consequences are locked.

D. The Counsel to Receive Wisdom (vs.32-33)

The dichotomy is set clearly before the son; their clarity ought to make wisdom an easy choice.