

PROVERBS

Lesson #7 The Calling and Confronting of Wisdom

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Proverbs 9:10

This is the last chapter before the Book of Proverbs begins a series of pithy, compact sayings which make a contrast between good and evil. This chapter contrasts the wise and the foolish throughout the chapter. _____ Chapter nine through.

I. The Calling by Wisdom (Proverbs 9:1-6)

As we see in chapter eight, wisdom wants to help people to _____ and _____ wisdom. "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not." (Proverbs 8:32).

The first part of this chapter tells of the work of wisdom making itself _____ to mankind.

A. The Preparation for the Calling (Proverbs 9:1-2)

Wisdom prepares diligently in presenting its case.

- **The house in the preparation.** The metaphor of the house gives us the idea of _____. Wisdom shelters one from evil. There is _____ in the wisdom of God. This is not a flimsy house. This house has stood the tests of time and trials (Matthew 7:24-27; Colossians 2:3). To build a good house takes much _____ and many _____. Wisdom is not lazy but is industrious.
- **The hospitality in the preparation.** Mingled her wine means to add water to it to make it more palatable. Wisdom is portrayed here as a meal in which many are _____ to come and _____. This is a choice meal adequately furnished for the guests (Psalm 23:5). Wisdom supplies what the Believer needs.

B. The Proclaiming of the Calling (Proverbs 9:3-6)

The invitation to come to the strong house for a splendid meal is made _____ to many. It reminds us of the invitation of the Gospel given in Luke chapter fourteen, where many people had _____ not to come.

- **The proclaimers in the proclamation.** "She hath sent for her maidens" (Proverbs 9:3). Wisdom employs servants to send out invitations. How like Christ sends out messengers of the Gospel to invite sinners to _____ Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.
- **The places in the proclaiming.** "She crieth upon the highest places of the city" (Proverbs 9:3). _____ is not hidden; the invitation is public and easy to perceive. Chapter one is not a contradiction but rather a _____ to those who will mock at wisdom.
- **The people in the proclaiming.** "Whoso is simple ...him that wanteth understanding" (Proverbs 9:4). Those who _____ wisdom are eligible to accept. The people that come admitting their need for wisdom and understanding are going to obtain. Everyone needs what God offers but some are too _____ to come.

- **The precept in the proclaiming.** "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding" (Proverbs 9:5,6). This precept is for all. "Come" is the invitation and to forsake the _____ is the challenge. Those who will go the _____ way will discover they have to _____ from those going the wrong way.

II. The Confronting by Wisdom (Proverbs 9:7-9)

When wisdom confronts people, the _____ to wisdom will vary greatly.

A. The experience in the confronting (Proverbs 9:7)

The reaction of the scorner and the wicked to holy counsel is despicable. But their _____ does not invalidate the message. Belligerent people do not respond to a good message properly. This is the experience of those who regularly proclaim the _____.

B. The exhortation for the confronting (Proverbs 9:8)

The refusing of the scorner. It is for the messenger to know whether he or she is dealing with a simple person, or a scorner. Let the scorner be, and carry the message to someone who will listen. The opposite is true of the rebuking a wise man.

C. The expectation in the confronting (Proverbs 9:8-9)

The response is predicted for proclaiming wisdom to the wise.

- **The passion in the expectation.** "He will love thee". Those who proclaim wisdom will find _____ with good people. The unwise will respond with resentment.
- **The progress in the expectation.** "He will be yet wiser" Those who respond well to the message of truth will _____ in their learning and wisdom. If you are not increasing in wisdom, you may want to ask God to show you why.

III. The Character of Wisdom (Proverbs 9:10-12)

IV. The Counterfeiting of Wisdom (Proverbs 9:13-18)
