

**Proverbs 8:12-21 — “The Description of Wisdom & Her Blessings!”**

The wisdom of God works for good. God’s wisdom is our oracle to instruct us. As He is the mighty God, so also the Counsellor (Isa. ix. 6). We are oftentimes in the dark, and, in matters intricate and doubtful know not which way to take; here God comes in with light. “ I will guide thee with mine eye ” (Psa. 42.8). “Eye,” there, is put for God’s wisdom. Why is it the saints can see further than the most quick-sighted politicians? They foresee the evil, and hide themselves; they see Satan’s sophisms. God’s wisdom is the pillar of fire to go before, and guide them. (Thomas Watson)

If wisdom were a person, what would she be like?

Col. 2:3 in [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**WISDOM for life >> James is “Proverbs of the NT” > full of wisdom, skill for living.**

- **JAMES 3:14-16** - Wisdom from **below** (worldly wisdom)
  
- **JAMES 3:17-18** - Wisdom from **above** (divine wisdom)

*Background to Prov 8:12-21*

- Prov 8 overview: (v.1-11 - defense of wisdom: **available & reliable**)
- But here in Prov 8:12-21 - blessings of wisdom in the PRESENT-TIME
- Next week: Prov 8:22-31 - blessings of wisdom in the PAST-TIME
- Here: v.12 and v.17 mark off the 2 sections with “I...wisdom” = she speaks
  - v.17 and v.21 are frame the unit with the phrase: “those who love me”

**THESIS — Here in Prov 8:12ff, God shows us *the reason why* we ought to pursue, love & follow this wisdom!**

1. What wisdom **IS** (12-16)
2. What wisdom **GIVES** (17-21)

**I. WHAT WISDOM IS (12-16)**

the *CHARACTER* of wisdom

Isn't it **wisdom** the very thing that many people lack? Wouldn't this wisdom from God solve many problems? Wisdom from God is the correct knowledge and skillfully application and implementation of biblical truths and directives in practical ways (Jay Adams).

**II. WHAT WISDOM GIVES (17-21)**

the *CONTRIBUTOR* of wisdom

v.17- God wants you to seek & find wisdom! It's available, seek it!

v.18 - The proverbs do not hesitate to name tangible wealth as a reward of walking in wisdom.

**Consider the a theme of 2 Chronicles: “Seeking” God—This is What GOD wants**

2 CHRON 7.14 - my people pray and seek my face...

2 CHRON 12.14 - he did evil b/c he did not set his heart to SEEK THE LORD

2 CHRON 14.4 - commanded Judah to SEEK the LORD

2 CHRON 15.2 - if you seek Him, he will let you find him...

2 CHRON 19.3 - you have set your heart to SEEK GOD

2 CHRON 20.3 - Jehoshaphat turned to SEEK the Lord

2 CHRON 20.4 - Judah gathered together to SEEK help from the Lord

Ps 105.3 - let the heart of those who SEEK the LORD be glad

Ps 119.2 - we are to SEEK HIM with all our heart

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- Luke 10:38-42 — Like Mary who was “seated at the Lord’s feet listening to his Word”
  1. it was **prioritized** — because there were plenty of distractions
  2. it was **preeminent** — nothing better than hearing from Jesus
  3. it was **permanent** — it cannot be taken away from her.
  4. it was **protective** — it kept her from worry, fear, and anxiety

## A, B, C, D, E’s of Wisdom ...

1. **A** **Available** (not far, near you, you can find it)
2. **B** **Beneficial** (benefits for life, thinking, relationship, conduct)
3. **C** **Codified** (in a book; God’s wisdom)
4. **D** **Delightful** (in your heart, joy in God, pursuit of God)
5. **E** **External** (outside of you/ in God, in Christ)

The chief means for attaining wisdom, and suitable gifts for the ministry, are the Holy Scriptures, and prayer. (John Newton)

## **JESUS WHAT A FRIEND FOR SINNERS**

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners!

Jesus! lover of my soul;  
friends may fail me, foes assail me,  
he, my Savior, makes me whole.

### **Refrain:**

**Hallelujah! what a Savior!  
Hallelujah, what a Friend!  
Saving, helping, keeping, loving,  
he is with me to the end.**

Jesus! what a strength in weakness!

Let me hide myself in him;  
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing,  
he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a help in sorrow!

While the billows o'er me roll,  
even when my heart is breaking,  
he, my comfort, helps my soul. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a guide and keeper!

While the tempest still is high,  
storms about me, night o'ertakes me,  
he, my pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain]

Jesus! I do now receive him,

more than all in him I find;  
he hath granted me forgiveness,  
I am his, and he is mine. [Refrain]