

Lesson 10: Evaluating

Proverbs 8:1-36 – Wisdom’s Worthwhile (understatement)

What do you love about Jesus? about the Gospel? Why is it so compelling?

general truths but also specific characteristics of God

Why is the gospel so valuable to you? (no end to how much we could say)

Wisdom in and only in Christ

Colossians 2:3 “Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”

As Proverbs 8 exalts wisdom, it exalts Christ

“all that you desire cannot compare with her” - 11

wow. also reshapes our desires

Theme of chapter – Incomparable

Phil 3:8 “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ”

Wisdom’s Incomparable Invitation – 1-11

Don’t You Hear the Invitation? – too often ignored

Where can you hear wisdom? How?

Public Free Gracious Invitation

When someone way out of your league is interested in you ...

Don’t You Want to Listen?

speaking to “humanity” v4 = Speaking to “simple” / “fools”

knowing our faults but still invited!

speaking exactly what we need

contrast with most advertising, which manipulates (“twisted,” “crooked”)

character of wisdom is truth, right, helpful

how valuable is a voice of truth?

how needed is reality of what is right?

“whatever is true, whatever is honorable ...” – Phil 4:8-9

Most Holy Exalted being in Universe wants us, calls to us, give to us

And when we still fail in goodness, dies for us, and gives life and salvation

No other religion or anything compares with Gospel Invitation

Wisdom’s Incomparable Competence – 12-21

Isn’t it impressive to see things that are done well! – always result of wisdom

Don’t we desire to live life well? always in need of wisdom

Wisdom helps us to love and hate correctly

What does wisdom hate? Why?

How do we need to learn to hate this? [we often crave sin, ignore righteousness]

Wouldn't it be great to get to where we hate all sin? only love good?- wisdom's leading

Rulers and Leaders – rely on wisdom to do well (same wisdom available to us all)

Elite are Impressive only because Wisdom; but Wisdom is not Elitist

What does it mean to be loved by wisdom? by Christ?

Many blessing along with it, as a sign of the relationship and intimacy

How do we learn to love wisdom more? (by seeing truly/accurately)

“granting an inheritance to those who love me and filling their treasuries”

Most things leave us empty

Wisdom is able to fill/satisfy

Christ's competence covers our incompetence AND makes us more competent continually

2 Tim 3:15-17, 2 Cor 2:16, 3:5-6

Wisdom's Incomparable Resume – 22-31

What is the importance of a resume or references? How do we have wisdom's resume?

An Attribute of God himself

Starts from Genesis 0:0

Wisdom was present, enjoying how well all of it was done, celebrating, “it is good”

Wisdom “delighting in the children of man” – as crown of creation in God's image

Nothing greater to look back to than the Lord himself

Christ as the “firstborn of all creation” Col 1:15 and “firstborn from the dead” Col 1:18

“that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

Resume which says, “It is finished”

Waiting and Watching for Wisdom – 32-36

How can we be more eager for and attentive to wisdom?

Life and Grace from the LORD in wisdom – 35

Self-Destruction apart from Wisdom “all who hate me love death”

Stop comparison shopping – Evaluation is Complete

Lesson 11: Choosing

Proverbs 9:1-18 – Between Two Choices

Final Section of the Introductory Part of Proverbs

Culmination of All that Precedes (chapters 1-9)

Preparation for All that Follows (chapter 10-31)

Are you prepared for making choices of life? How well are you choosing

[see existential crisis of choice ... ultimate choice still exemplified in each daily...]

How do you make Choices? What is helpful? What is difficult?

When more likely to be good choices? When more likely to be bad choices?

How is Choosing especially important in our time? Everything is an Option

Choices we make are always revealing the loyalty of our hearts

So Choosing, in one sense, is always between just two choices

ultimate choice exemplified in each daily choice of how to live

how we spend time, money, use words, interact, work, entertainment, etc.

how we use freedom – Gal 5:1,13

Distinctive Form of this Section Emphasizes Choice

Proverbs Advises rather than Directs; Persuades rather than Commands

Recognizes responsibility for Choices – wisely or foolishly – v12

Structure: Invitation of Lady Wisdom (1-6) copied (13-18) by Dame Folly

Two Women Vying for the “young man’s” Attention/Commitment

Not Equals, Similar in Presentation Only not Substance

Folly can look Wise; Wisdom can Seem Foolish- 1 Cor 1:18-31

Notice One Choice comes Before the Other (don’t have to wait)

Important to Discern this Difference to make a Loyal Consistent Commitment

Structure: Middle verses (7-12) about that Discernment and Choosing

Verses between the Two Invitations about How to Choose

Chiasm of 7-9 centering on v 8; theme from 1:7 here in 9:10; Point in v 12

“If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.”

Lady Wisdom’s Invitation – 1-6

Wisdom Personified as a Wealthy Woman Inviting You to Her Banquet

How do you see her Extensive, Lavish Preparation in the first 3 verses? Extremely Generosity

v1 house (place/shelter), v2 table (feast/food), v3 town (messengers)

What is wisdom’s house in light of Proverbs 8? Creation (always living in her house)

What is set on wisdom’s table in light of Proverbs 1-8? The good life, enjoyment of it

What is the town where wisdom calls in light of Proverbs 1-8? Everywhere People Are

How do you see her Open Gracious Life-giving Offer in verses 4-6?

“whoever is simple” – all ... but also ... only those who recognize their lack/need
interesting advertisement strategy

“come and eat/drink” – quality, free, and beneficial (what you can’t provide for self)

“leave ... and live” – faith and repentance at core, also continuing “walk” – Gal 5:16,25

How do you see Gospel Connection to full-orbed Salvation in Christ here?

Paralleled by Jesus’s offer of a feast in John 6:53-56 (also note Luke 5:32)

However, this isn’t the only Invitation; Another always mixed with it, and mimics it.

Between Two Choices – 7-12

Two Paths intentionally/helpfully Bifurcates every situation into Only Two

Doesn’t Simplify Choosing; Simply teaches us how to Choose

Though in the Middle, there is No Middle Ground (no both/and for wisdom and folly)

What is the difference between the first 3 lines and second 3 lines of 7-9? in terms of who?

(7a,7b,8a) describe the response of a scoffer; (8b,9a,9b) describe the response of wise

What characteristic is focused on in all 6 lines? (same given to scoffer and to the wise)

Same Action brings to Opposite Reactions in v8 - either love or hate

Highlights central aspect of choosing well, living well, finding wisdom – what is it?

willingness to see wrong, be corrected, to learn, and grown (2 Tim 3:16)

“repentance” is the theological/practical category for it – makes all the difference

What characterizes you? *If you long to be correct, you have to love being corrected*

Seen in Horizontal Relationships but Same characteristic for Vertical Relationship

Choice in the Middle – doesn’t mean all up to you – trust in self repeats Garden sin

Fear of the Lord – to submit to him for every choice – lean on him, follow him

Dame Folly’s Invitation – 13-18

Folly is Personified as a Seductive Woman Inviting You to Stolen Pleasures

always involves sin (how wrong), but here focus is on how stupid (foolish)

cheap knock off version, crude look-a-like, same dress, same lines ... but not same thing

Counterfeiting – evil’s best ruse is to mimic good, has nothing of its own

How do you see her Preparation in verse 13-15? Non-Existent! (accomplished nothing)

relies on volume and manipulation not content, just sits at the door of her house

“seat on highest places” - idolatry (empty); “straight on their way” –to wisdom’s banquet?

Seductive Copy-Cat Invitation - 16-17 -can’t even come up with own words – direct plagiarism

has nothing to offer except stolen good – pleasures that aren’t from her

How do you see the Gospel Connection to Condemnation Here? v18

Many Intersections crossing the Path of Wisdom

Choosing like a young man with two women vying for attention, offering themselves

Can you tell the difference? Do you know what to listen to? Who to dine with? Who to love?