

Abide in Me

John 15:4
*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



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The Week of January 15, 2023

Get Wisdom
The Benefits of Wisdom
Proverbs 8:1-36

The Book of Proverbs has one main goal - to "get wisdom" (Prov. 4:5,7). The word "wisdom" or "wise" is used 107 times in 31 chapters. In the Bible, wisdom is God-centered and constitutes a way of life rather than an accumulation of knowledge. Wisdom wants to dwell in our heart, not just our head. We can fill our minds with the wisdom of this world, and be very knowledgeable about many subjects, yet fail to possess biblical wisdom. Biblical wisdom is rooted in a reverential fear of the Lord.

In Proverbs 8, the author uses the poetic device of personification to give Wisdom a voice and a personality. Because the Hebrew word for wisdom is grammatically feminine, wisdom is portrayed as a "she" rather than a "he." Furthermore, utilizing the teaching tool of contrast and comparison, Lady Wisdom is contrasted with Lady Folly who occupies chapter 7 and parts of chapter 9, so it was poetically consistent to portray wisdom as a woman.

In this poem, Lady Wisdom is the personification of Wisdom, but she does not exist as a real person. The fullness of God's Wisdom does exist in a real person - and that person is the Lord Jesus Christ (Col. 2:3; 1 Cor.1:24). To grow in wisdom is to grow in Christ. Let us set our hearts on Christ and "get wisdom"!

READ PROVERBS 8:1-36

EXPLORING THE PASSAGE TOGETHER

1. What are we talking about when we refer to wisdom? How does wisdom differ from knowledge?

2. What is the relationship between wisdom and the fear of the Lord? What does it mean to "fear the Lord"? (v. 13)

3. Who needs wisdom? Why do we all need wisdom? How do we get wisdom? (vv. 4-5)

4. What competes with wisdom for our attention?

5. If we possess wisdom, what other qualities will we possess? At this time in your life, which of these qualities do you feel you need most and why? (vv. 12-16)

6. What are some things that people today value more than wisdom? (vv. 10-11, 19-21)

7. How is wisdom's value in your life demonstrated by your lifestyle? How has wisdom shaped your life?

8. What are the benefits and blessings that wisdom provides?

9. What does “watching and waiting” look like in your life? (v. 34)

10. What is one way you can increase wisdom’s role in your life?

