

The Two Paths in Proverbs

Lesson 8: The Allurement of Wisdom Proverbs 8:1-36

I. **The call of wisdom:** Wisdom calls out to all men everywhere to embrace her – 8:1-5.

II. **The character of wisdom:** The intrinsic character of wisdom is described to motivate men to embrace her – 8:6-11.

“Wisdom is better than rubies (v.11)”, because wisdom teaches us how to view wealth, enjoy wealth, but not be defined or corrupted by wealth. Wisdom can develop in us “the true spiritual discipline of stewardship in relation to wealth” (Dallas Willard).

III. **The attributes of wisdom:** Wisdom imparts her many attributes and benefits on those who love her – 8:12-21.

“Paradoxically when wealth is sought it corrupts, but when wisdom is sought, edifying wealth is given” (Bruce K. Waltke).

IV. **The preeminence of wisdom:** God birthed wisdom before Creation and used her as His agent to create the universe – 8:22-31.

The English phrase “master craftsman” is the Hebrew word ‘amon, which refers to an architect or master workman, who is “firm and sure in his workmanship” (BDB Hebrew Lexicon). It is the basis of our English word “amen”, which means that when we close our prayers with it, we are saying that we trust the Lord as the firm and sure One to bring it about.

V. **The forewarning of wisdom:** Wisdom blesses those who embrace her, but warns us that a living death awaits those who reject her – 8:32-36.

- Tom Rodgers