

Wisdom: God's Apprentice

Ponder: God's delight in those who exercise wisdom

Scripture: "Then I was beside Him, like a master workman, and I was daily His delight" (Prov. 8:30a, ESV).

Solomon frequently personifies wisdom in Proverbs. Usually he portrays wisdom as a benevolent woman seeking to aid those who are naive and ignorant. Our text here, however, pictures wisdom as God's apprentice, learning from Him and modeling His excellent work. "Master workman" is literally "one brought up"; in fact, the KJV so translates it. It refers to the ancient practice where a master craftsman would train a young apprentice who would eventually become a master craftsman.

God used wisdom as He brought the creation into existence. "When He prepared the heavens, I was there" (Prov. 8:27). Verse 30 portrays God as being delighted with the way wisdom worked. We certainly understand that wisdom isn't literally a person. However, it is one of God's attributes, and we know that when God created everything in six days, He saw that it was good – indeed, "it was very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Since God delights in the way wisdom works, shouldn't you and I seek to please Him by exercising wisdom? Whereas Solomon personified wisdom as God's apprentice, you and I can be apprentices in a literal way. We may not have Jesus with us in the flesh to mentor us like the Twelve did, but we have God's completed word to train us and help us develop wisdom. And there is nothing wrong with requesting help from wise brothers and sisters along the way. We'll never live long enough to make all the mistakes ourselves, right? God often gives wisdom through experience, so let's take advantage of the experience of fellow-Christians! And be sure to pass on that wisdom to others as you have opportunity to help them.

A good apprentice wants to be a master craftsman; his teacher wants that for him, too. Let us strive to be the best for our God. He wants this for us, and He is more than worthy.

Song: "I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord"

Prayer: Gracious Father in heaven, we are humbled and honored that You would even want us as Your servants. We marvel at Your infinite wisdom, and plead for You to help us to develop wisdom and to give you our best. In Jesus' name, Amen.