

The Blessedness of Wisdom

Ponder: To whom are you listening?

Scripture: “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors” (Proverbs 8:34, NKJV).

So many different voices – to whom should I listen? One says this, another says that – how can I know which is right?

Today’s Scripture sounds a great deal like God Himself is telling us to listen to Him. Bottom line, He is! Actually, though, in this entire chapter Solomon portrays wisdom as a woman exhorting people everywhere to pay attention to what she says (see 8:1). Verse 34 pictures wisdom living in a house with people waiting at her gates and doors to learn the wonderful things she teaches.

Genuine Biblical wisdom speaks what is right and true (8:6-8). And while those who conduct their lives wisely may enjoy material prosperity (8:21), wisdom itself is more valuable than silver, gold, jewels, or other wealth (8:10-11). Think of the endless efforts people put into accumulating material wealth; but how diligent are we in seeking wisdom? Where will the bulk of your energy be focused today?

Wisdom expresses her surpassing value in 8:35-36, “For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death.” This certainly applies to physical life and death here and now, but let us not miss the eternal, spiritual significance. Remember, blessedness involves not mere physical wellbeing, but a good relationship with God.

Wisdom, in fact, is one of God’s eternal, infinite attributes. “The Lord possessed me (wisdom) at the beginning of His way, before His works of old” (8:22). So, we are not off the mark saying God is the source of any wisdom we might possess. When wisdom says, “Listen to me,” it is not unlike God saying, “Listen to Me!”

Yes, many voices vie for our attention. To whom should we listen? Paul said he spoke “not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God. . . These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches” (1 Corinthians 2:6-13). When we listen to God’s word, we’re listening to His wisdom!

Song: “The Precious Book Divine”

Prayer: All-wise Heavenly Father, we stand in awe of Your infinite wisdom. Help us, we pray, not to trust in our own wisdom, but to listen to Your word and take into ourselves Your wisdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.