

The Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 8: Wisdom's Chapter

In the volume of the book it is written of me. Psalm 40:7

The Worldview of Wisdom 8:1—36

*I was daily filled with delight.
rejoicing before him always.
rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.-t
PROVERBS 8:30, 31*

Proverbs 8:

In Proverbs 7 God tells us not to commit adultery.

In Proverbs 8 God lifts before us a brightly positive worldview.

Coping strategies for moments of temptation.

A whole new way of seeing everything - the joyous grandeur of Christ, relevant to all of life, with higher aims and richer rewards than we would otherwise even contemplate.

The doctrine of creation runs throughout the Bible.

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Revelation 4:11: "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things."

Living in his universe, we have nothing to fear and everything to enjoy. God made it all, for us. to the praise of his glory.

God mercifully steps in with the wise doctrine of creation to free us from our idols, exalt Christ and make life livable again.

Proverbs 8 divides into four sections.

- Wisdom commands us to prize her (**vv. 1—11**).
Why prize wisdom?
Because she is both powerful (**vv. 12—21**) and profound (**vv. 22—31**).
- Wisdom is the real power behind the throne, enriching all who love her (**verses 12—21**).
- Wisdom is the secret to the universe: she was here first, rejoicing over God's creation (**vv. 22—31**).
- Finally, wisdom is the one necessity for true life, and we must embrace her (**vv. 32—36**).

Personification

Throughout Proverbs 8 the sage uses a figure of speech called personification.

As he writes, he takes on the persona of Wisdom as an elegant lady.

She is the opposite of the adulteress in Proverbs 7.

Proverbs 8-9

Chapters 8 and 9 personify the two ways of life.

Wisdom is seen as a beautiful woman, calling those who follow her to come away into the place of victory and achievement and success in life,

Folly is personified as an evil woman -- attractive, alluring, tempting us to step aside into death.

The foolishness which thinks everything it does is right in its own eyes

It is a marvelously-beautiful poetic passage.

When Wisdom speaks here it is the voice of the Lord speaking.

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 8

- 1 Does not **wisdom** call, And **understanding** lift up her voice?
- 2 On top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;
- 2 Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:
- 4 To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.
- 5 O naive ones, **understand** prudence; And, O fools, **understand** wisdom.
- 6 Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips *will reveal right things*.
- 7 For my mouth will utter truth; And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
- 8 All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.
- 9 They are all straightforward to him who **understands**, And right to those who find **knowledge**.
- 10 Take my instruction and not silver, And **knowledge** rather than choicest gold.
- 11 For **wisdom** is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.
- 12 I, **wisdom**, dwell with prudence, And I find **knowledge and discretion**.
- 13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 8

- 14 Counsel is mine and sound **wisdom**; I am **understanding**, power is mine.
- 15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.
- 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly.
- 17 I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.
- 18 Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness.
- 19 My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield *better than choicest silver*.
- 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,
- 21 To endow those who love me with wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.
- 22 **The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.**
- 23 **From everlasting I was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.**
Day 1: Gen 1:1-5
- 24 **When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.**
2nd Day: Gen 1:6-8
- 25 **Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth;**
3rd Day: Gen 1:9-13

Jas 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 8

- 26 **While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.**
Day 1: Gen 1:1-5
- 27 **When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,**
2nd Day: Gen 1:6-8
- 28 **When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed**
- 29 **When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;**
3rd Day: Gen 1:9-13
- 30 **Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,**
- 31 **Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And having my delight in the sons of men.**
- 32 Now therefore, *O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways.*
- 33 Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it.
- 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts.
- 35 For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD.
- 36 But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

Proverbs 8:1-5

1] Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

2] She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

3] She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

4] Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

5] O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

Proverbs 8:1-5

“Intellectual problems” evaporate once a favorite sin is repented of...

Psalm 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”

2 Corinthians 3:13-16 And not as Moses, which put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not stedfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the veil shall be taken away.

Proverbs 8:1-3 Wisdom Calls and Commands

Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

On the heights beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud.. . (Pro 8:1—3)

Christ does not retreat into a monastery.

He does not wait for us to find him.

He moves toward us,

he moves toward the masses,

where we live day by day, “at the crossroads,” where the competition for hearts is fiercest.

He rubs shoulders with us.

He feels at home with us.

He speaks into our everyday lives.

He is raising his voice, so that we can hear him above all the noise.

There is no question about his relevance to us or his interest in us.

Are we turning the noise down so that we can listen?

Proverbs 8:1 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:1 ISV*) ¶ Isn't wisdom calling out; isn't understanding raising her voice?

(Pro 8:1 KJV+) Doth not^{H3808} wisdom^{H2451} cry?^{H7121} and understanding^{H8394} put forth^{H5414} her voice?^{H6963}

(Pro 8:1 NASB) Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice?

(Pro 8:1 NIV) Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?

Questions 8-9. Next, **Prov 14:22**.

Wisdom is personified in **Prov 8:8-9**.

[wisdom] Hebrew: **chokmah** (OT:2451) (see note **Prov 1:2**).

Proverbs 8:2 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:2 ISV) ¶ On top of the highest places along the road she stands where the roads meet.*

(Pro 8:2 KJV+) She standeth^{H5324} in the top^{H7218} of high places,^{H4791} by^{H5921} the way^{H1870} in the places^{H1004} of the paths.^{H5410}

(Pro 8:2 NASB) On top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

(Pro 8:2 NIV) On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand;

Wherever men are, there she cries and warns of wrong ways.

Wisdom cries in five places:

- high places,
- crossroads,
- gates,
- broad roads, and
- at the doors.

Proverbs 8:3-4 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:3 NASB) Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: 4) "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men. To whom does Christ make his appeal?

[sons of man] The call is to all the sons of Adam — to the simple, to the fools (*Prov 8:4-5*).

*To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the children of man.
O simple ones, learn prudence;
O fools, learn sense. (Proverbs 8:4, 5)*

Jesus Christ wants to engage everyone, including fools who have made many mistakes.

Proverbs 8:3-4 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:3 ISV) ¶ Beside the gates, at the city entrance—the entrance to the portals she cries aloud: 4) ¶ "I'm calling to you, men! What I have to say pertains [Lit. My voice is] to all mankind!*

(Pro 8:3 KJV+) She crieth^{H7442} at^{H3027} the gates,^{H8179} at the entry^{H6310} of the city,^{H7176} at the coming^{H3996} in at the doors.^{H6607} 4) Unto^{H413} you, O men,^{H376} I call,^{H7121} and my voice^{H6963} is to^{H413} the sons^{H1121} of man.^{H120}

(Pro 8:3 NASB) Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: 4) "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.

(Pro 8:3 NIV) beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: 4) "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind.

Proverbs 8:3-4 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:3 NASB) Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: 4) "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.

There is one group he does ignore: the scoffers.

"Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse" (Pr 9:7)

Some people just will not listen.

If you try to help them, they get mean.

But as for the rest of us—even if we are fools, Christ is reaching out to us.

All he asks is humble openness. He provides everything else.

Proverbs 8:5 Wisdom Calls for an Audience

(Pro 8:5 ISV) ¶ Understand prudence, you naïve people; and gain an understanding heart, you foolish ones.*

(Pro 8:5 KJV+) O ye simple,^{H6612} understand^{H995} wisdom:^{H6195} and, ye fools,^{H3684} be ye of an understanding^{H995} heart.^{H3820}

(Pro 8:5 NASB) "O naïve ones, understand prudence; And, O fools, understand wisdom.

(Pro 8:5 NIV) You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

[simple] See note *Prov 1:4*.

[wisdom] Hebrew: **±ormah** (OT:6195), shrewdness.

Translated wisdom (*Prov 8:5*);
subtily (*Prov 1:4*); and
prudence (*Prov 8:12*).

[heart]

See Eighteen Commands Concerning the Heart

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Proverbs 8:6-9

Look at what he is offering us:

*Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips ill come what is right,
for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
They are all straight to him who understands,
and right to those who find knowledge. (Prov 8:6-9)*

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18 Commands Concerning the Heart (Prov 23:26)

1. Apply the heart to understanding (*Prov 2:2; 22:17; 23:12*).
2. Open the heart to wisdom (*Prov 2:10*).
3. Keep the commandments (*Prov 3:1; 4:4,21*).
4. Write commandments on it (*Prov 3:3; 7:3*).
5. Trust in the Lord with it (*Prov 3:5*).
6. Keep it with all diligence (*Prov 4:23*).
7. Bind commandments upon it (*Prov 6:21*).
8. Do not lust in it (*Prov 6:25*).
9. Do not be inclined to sin (*Prov 7:25*).
10. Have an understanding heart (*Prov 8:5*).
11. Be wise in it (*Prov 11:29; 16:21; 12:23*).
12. Retain wisdom in it (*Prov 14:33*).
13. Be merry in heart (*Prov 15:13,15*).
14. Study answers with it (*Prov 15:28*).
15. Increase its knowledge (*Prov 18:15*).
16. Apply it to instruction (*Prov 23:12*).
17. Do not use it to envy sinners (*Prov 23:17*).
18. Give heart to wisdom (*Prov 23:26*).

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Proverbs 8:6-9

*6] Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.
7] For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8] All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.
9] They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.*

There are no “problems” in the Bible;
The problems are in our understanding, or in the lack thereof.

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Christ gives us two commands in Prov: 8:1-11.

The first is in **verse 6: “Hear” / “Listen”**

(Pro 8:6 NASB) “Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips will reveal right things.

We should we listen with complete openness because all the words of his mouth are righteous—completely true and morally excellent.

There is nothing hidden or tricky or manipulative in the Bible – God’s Word.

God has never said anything he had to be ashamed of or take back.

The problem for us is that he is willing to tell us hard things.

He does not flatter us.

He can be blunt.

We have to decide if we are going to listen enough so that we change.

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Christ gives us two commands in Prov: 8:1-11.

Here is the catch. **Verse 9:**

“They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.”

The Word of God is only open to the open person,
It is only reasonable to the reasonable person.

The Word of God reveals yourself to you (**2 Cor 2:14—16**).

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? (NKJV)

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Christ gives us two commands in Prov: 8:1-11.

(Pro 8:6 NASB) “Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips will reveal right things.

Do you see the word **“noble” / “excellent”** in **verse 6?**

Christ is incapable of giving us less than noble things.

There is nothing degrading in the gospel.

His gospel raises our standards and lifts us above the vulgar.

Sometimes his words come with a bite, and we have to swallow hard, but there is no bitter aftertaste.

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Christ gives us two commands in Prov: 8:1-11.

If your own mentality, your own mindset, your own interior world, is biased in favor of Self, the gospel will leave you feeling misunderstood and underappreciated.

You will resent it and you will blame the gospel or at least the preacher of the gospel. You might even lash back.

This is why every one of us must bring to our every encounter with the gospel a certain pre-condition.

We must come pre- committed humbly to obey whatever Christ says.

“Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).

Christ will not allow us to treat him as a theory, at intellectual arm’s length.

But if you hunger and thirst for him, he will give you his very best, as you listen.

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Mat 5:6

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Proverbs 8:6-7

(Pro 8:6 ISV*) ¶ Listen, because I have noble things to say, and what I have to say [Lit. my open lips] will reveal what is right. 7) ¶ For my mouth speaks the truth—wickedness is detestable to me.

(Pro 8:6 KJV+) Hear;^{H8085} for^{H3588} I will speak^{H1696} of excellent things;^{H5057} and the opening^{H4669} of my lips^{H8193} shall be right things.^{H4339} 7) For^{H3588} my mouth^{H2441} shall speak^{H1897} truth;^{H571} and wickedness^{H7562} is an abomination^{H8441} to my lips.^{H8193}

(Pro 8:6 NASB) "Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips will reveal right things. 7) "For my mouth will utter truth; And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

(Pro 8:6 NIV) Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. 7) My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.

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Twenty Personal Acts of Wisdom (Prov 8:7)

1. She cries (Prov 8:1-3).
2. She stands (Prov 8:2).
3. She calls (Prov 8:4).
4. She speaks (Prov 8:4-9:18).
5. She reproves (Prov 8:5).
6. She abhors sin (Prov 8:7).
7. She admonishes (Prov 8:10).
8. She searches (Prov 8:12).
9. She hates (Prov 8:13).
10. She counsels (Prov 8:14).
11. She advises (Prov 8:15).
12. She loves (Prov 8:17).
13. She leads (Prov 8:20).
14. She blesses (Prov 8:21).
15. She rejoices (Prov 8:30).
16. She delights (Prov 8:31).
17. She builds (Prov 9:1).
18. She cooks (Prov 9:2).
19. She plans (Prov 9:3).
20. She invites (Prov 9:5).

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Proverbs 8:6-7

(Pro 8:6 NASB) "Listen, for I will speak noble things; And the opening of my lips will reveal right things. 7) "For my mouth will utter truth; And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

[my mouth shall speak truth] This is the third great personification of wisdom (**Prv 8-9; Prv 1:20-32; 3:13-18**).

- She lifts up her voice in the most public places and warns the young to avoid the ways of seduction and sin (**Prv 8:1-14**).
- She promises riches, honor, wisdom, knowledge, and success in every field of endeavor to those who love her (**Prv 8:15-21**).
- She speaks of her eternity with God and advises men to obey her because of her ancient experiences (**Prv 8:22-9:18**).

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Proverbs 8:8

(Pro 8:8 ISV*) ¶ Everything I have to say is just; there isn't anything corrupt or perverse in my speech. [Lit. words]

(Pro 8:8 KJV+) All^{H3605} the words^{H561} of my mouth^{H6310} are in righteousness;^{H6664} there is nothing^{H369} froward^{H6617} or perverse^{H6141} in them.

(Pro 8:8 NASB) "All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; There is nothing crooked or perverted in them.

(Pro 8:8 NIV) All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.

[righteousness] All my sayings are righteous, declaring what man owes to God, to his neighbor, and to himself, so that each can receive his due.

[froward or perverse] Crooked or crafty, perverse, unrighteous, or difficult.

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Proverbs 8:9

(Pro 8:9 ISV) ¶ Everything I say is sensible to someone who understands, and correct to those who have acquired knowledge.*

(Pro 8:9 KJV+) They are all^{H3605} plain^{H5228} to him that understandeth,^{H995} and right^{H3477} to them that find^{H4672} knowledge.^{H1847}

(Pro 8:9 NASB) "They are all straightforward to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge.

(Pro 8:9 NIV) To the discerning all of them are right; they are faultless to those who have knowledge.

My words are plain to him that understands, and righteous to the those who have knowledge.

In contrast to the crooked, crafty, and unrighteous ones of **Prov 8:8**.

The man of understanding and wisdom does not despise truth. That is the Lord's first command—to hear.

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Proverbs 8:10 Choose it, Take it

The second of the two commands appears in verse 10:

***Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold,
for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
(Proverbs 8:10-11)***

We have to "take", "choose" instruction and knowledge over temporal things.

We have to choose what we are going to take and grab hold of and not let go.

"Take my instruction instead of silver."

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Proverbs 8:10 Choose it, Take it

"Take my instruction instead of silver."

It is an either/or choice – not a bit of both because whatever we take, takes us.

We will love either wisdom or money.

We will most deeply care about what we are or what we have.

We cannot live for two ultimate goals at once

(Mat 6:24). You cannot serve God and mammon.

Make your money to serve Christ or

You will end up serving money without Christ.

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Proverbs 8:10-13

10] Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11] For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

12] I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13] The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

"froward mouth" = "the mouth of perversions do I hate."

Wisdom is the character of God,
and that character has been revealed in Christ.

Evil, pride, arrogance, and an evil way are hateful to Him.

If we belong to Him, we will hate these things also.

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Proverbs 8:10

(Pro 8:10 ISV*) ¶ *Grab hold of my instruction in lieu of money and knowledge instead of the finest gold,*

(Pro 8:10 KJV+) Receive^{H3947} my instruction,^{H4148} and not^{H408} silver;^{H3701} and knowledge^{H1847} rather than choice gold.^{H4480 H977 H2742}

(Pro 8:10 NASB) "Take my instruction and not silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold.

(Pro 8:10 NIV) Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold,

Choose instruction over silver, and knowledge over gold.

Wisdom is even better than rubies and all other things one can desire (**Prov 8:11; Prov 3:15**).

Proverbs 8:11

(Pro 8:11 ISV*) ¶ *because wisdom is better than precious gems [Or rubies] and nothing you desire can compare to it."*

(Pro 8:11 KJV+) For^{H3588} wisdom^{H2451} is better^{H2896} than rubies;^{H4480 H6443} and all^{H3605} the things that may be desired^{H2656} are not^{H3808} to be compared^{H7737} to it.

(Pro 8:11 NASB) "For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.

(Pro 8:11 NIV) for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

Seventeen Better Things in Proverbs

1. Wisdom is better than gold (**Prov 3:14; 8:19**).
2. Wisdom is better than silver (**Prov 3:14; 8:19**).
3. Wisdom is better than rubies (**Prov 3:15; 8:11**).
4. A despised man is better than one who honors himself (**Prov 12:9**).
5. A little with the fear of God is better than treasures with trouble (**Prov 15:16**).
6. A dinner of herbs with love is better than a feast where hatred is (**Prov 15:17**).
7. A man slow to anger is better than a hot tempered mighty man (**Prov 16:32**).
8. A man who rules his spirit is better than an intemperate hero (**Prov 16:32**).
9. A morsel of bread with quietness is better than a feast with strife (**Prov 17:1**).

Seventeen Better Things in Proverbs

10. An honest poor man is better than a fool with perverse lips (**Prov 19:1**).
 11. A poor man is better than a liar (**Prov 19:22**).
 12. It is better to dwell alone in a small place than in a large one with a brawling woman (**Prov 21:9; 25:24**).
 13. It is better to dwell in the wilderness than with an angry and contentious woman (**Prov 21:19**).
 14. It is better to be exalted than to be abased before men (**Prov 25:7**).
 15. An open rebuke is better than secret love (**Prov 27:5**).
 16. A near neighbor is better than a far-off brother (**Prov 27:10**).
 17. A righteous poor man is better than a wicked rich man (**Prov 28:6**).
- [wickedness] Hebrew: **resha+** (OT:7562), lawlessness (**Isa 57:20-21**).

Proverbs 8:12-14 The Way of Wisdom

Wisdom Rules and Enriches

*I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.
The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.
I have counsel and sound wisdom:
I have insight: I have strength. (Proverbs 8:12—14)*

We take and protect whatever we value.

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Proverbs 8:12 The Way of Wisdom

(Pro 8:12 ISV) ¶ "I, wisdom, am related to [Lit. wisdom, live with] prudence. I know how to be discreet.
(Pro 8:12 KJV+) I^{H589} wisdom^{H2451} dwell^{H7931} with prudence,^{H6195} and find out^{H4672} knowledge^{H1847} of witty inventions.^{H4209}
(Pro 8:12 NASB) "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.
(Pro 8:12 NIV) "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.*

[**prudence**] is defined here as practical wisdom, or wisdom in action, choosing the best means to an end.

Hence, witty (shrewd, practical) inventions.

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Proverbs 8:13 The Way of Wisdom

(Pro 8:13 ISV) ¶ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil. Pride, arrogance, an evil lifestyle, and perverted speech I despise.
(Pro 8:13 KJV+) The fear^{H3374} of the LORD^{H3068} is to hate^{H8130} evil:^{H7451} pride,^{H1344} and arrogancy,^{H1347} and the evil^{H7451} way,^{H1870} and the froward^{H8419} mouth,^{H6310} do I hate.^{H8130}
(Pro 8:13 NASB) "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverted mouth, I hate.
(Pro 8:13 NIV) To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*

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Proverbs 8:13 The Way of Wisdom

Four things the fear of God is the hatred of:

1. Evil
2. The evil way
3. Arrogance
4. Pride

By nature men love evil (**Jer 17:9; Mat 7:17; 15:19; John 3:19; Ro 3:10-18; 8:7-8; 2Co 2:14; Eph 2:2-12; 4:17-22**)

A man may outwardly depart from evil yet love it in his heart, but to hate it he must have divine wisdom.

Christ, speaking as Wisdom, is saying here that the people he blesses join him in fearing the Lord and hating pride and self-importance and sneakiness which are the very sins to which gifted people are prone.

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Proverbs 8: The Way of Wisdom

Priorities

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you? Matthew 6:33

This is “Wisdom”—the person—talking...Jesus Christ!

The Word of God is going to make it clear that **wisdom is a person**, the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 8:14-16 The Way of Wisdom

14] Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

15] By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

16] By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

Wisdom has the patent on counsel and resourcefulness and insight and heroic strength.

- Wisdom provides both strategies that succeed and the strength to carry them out and not quit in the face of hardship and opposition.
- Wisdom is practical.
- Wisdom works.
- Wisdom makes us influential.

But the wisdom of Christ belongs only to those who humble themselves, because they want to change and grow and make an impact for him.

This is not natural wisdom. This is spiritual wisdom.
There is a difference (**James 3:13—18**).

Utna-pish-tim vs Noah

The hero of the Babylonian account of the flood is a man named Utnapishtim.

He was even given another name meaning something like "Super-Genius." He was viewed as brilliant.

By contrast, the Bible says that Noah was “righteous” and “walked with God” (**Genesis 6:9; 7:1**).

Who was really smart?

Utnapishtim built his boat as a giant cube, 180 feet in length, width, and height, with a displacement of over 200,000 tons.

It would have toppled and spun and sunk to the bottom like a stone.

Noah built something like a modern battleship, 450 feet long, seventy-five feet wide, forty-five feet high, with a displacement of around 43,300 tons—a sensible plan.

Is was stable in the rough seas, floated and was nearly self righting.

Utna-pish-tim vs Noah

The Bible never says Noah was brilliant.

But Noah did walk with God.

Humbly walking with God worked out for him.

It will work out for you too.

In Psalms & Daniel it is repeated:

“the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”

God overrules down here in the affairs of this world!

1Co 1:27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

Proverbs 8:14

(Pro 8:14 ISV) ¶ Counsel belongs to me, along with sound judgment. I am understanding. Power belongs to me.*

(Pro 8:14 KJV+) Counsel^{H6098} is mine, and sound wisdom:^{H8454} I^{H589} am understanding;^{H998} I have strength.^{H1369}

(Pro 8:14 NASB) "Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.

(Pro 8:14 NIV) Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have understanding and power.

Proverbs 8:14

(Pro 8:14 NASB) "Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.

[sound wisdom] Hebrew: **tuwshiyah** (OT:8454), stability; essence; substance; reality.

From it come all inventions and knowledge of all sciences known to man.

Translated

- "wisdom" (**Job 6:13; 12:16; Prov 2:7; 3:21; 8:14; 18:1; Mic 6:9**);
- "enterprise" (**Job 5:12**);
- "that which is" (**Job 11:6**);
- "the thing as it is" (**Job 26:3**);
- "substance" (**Job 30:22**); and
- "working" (**Isa 28:29**).

Proverbs 8:15-16

*By me kings reign,
and rulers decree what is just;
by me princes rule,
and nobles, all who govern justly. (Proverbs 8:15, 16)*

Even in the tough world of human leadership, Christ is the secret to success.

He knows his way around hardheaded deals and aggressive negotiations.

He knows how to get things done with agility, versatility, keenness, competence.

But we, in life style and decisions, underrate his abilities and resources when everything is on the line!

Proverbs 8:15-16

By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly. (Pr 8:15-16)

For a church, success does not require human rules.

Rules do not make people thrive.

Success requires wise, seasoned, humble, mature, Christ like leaders.

In Christ you can become one of them.

He is generous with himself:

Ecc_10:3 Even when a fool walks along the way, He lacks wisdom, And he shows everyone that he is a fool.

Jas_1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

Proverbs 8:15-17

(Pro 8:15 ISV) ¶ Kings reign by me, and rulers dispense justice through me. 16) ¶ By me leaders rule, as do noble officials and all who govern justly. [So MT; LXX reads and tyrants rule the earth] 17) ¶ I love those who love me, and those who seek me will find me.*

(Pro 8:15 KJV+) By me kings^{H4428} reign,^{H4427} and princes^{H7336} decree^{H2710} justice.^{H6664} 16) By me princes^{H8269} rule,^{H8323} and nobles,^{H5081} even all^{H3605} the judges^{H8199} of the earth,^{H776} 17) I^{H589} love^{H157} them that love^{H157} me; and those that seek me early^{H7836} shall find^{H4672} me.

(Pro 8:15 NASB) "By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. 16) "By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly. 17) "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

(Pro 8:15 NIV) By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; 16) by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth. 17) I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

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Proverbs 8:15-17

(Pro 8:15 NASB) "By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. 16) "By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly. 17) "I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me.

Five examples of loving wisdom:

1. Joseph (**Gen 37:2-17; 39:3-9; 41:38**)
2. Samuel (**1 Sam 2:26; 7:3-17**)
3. David (**1 Sam 17:37-46**)
4. Solomon (**1 Kings 3**)
5. Daniel (**Dan 1; 5; etc.**)

[those that seek me early shall find me]

Early in a situation or circumstance is the best time to seek wisdom.

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Proverbs 8:17-21 The Agelessness of Wisdom

Wisdom is personified in Christ!...

*I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.
Riches and honor are with me,
enduring wealth and righteousness.
My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the paths of justice,
granting an inheritance to those who love me,
and filling their treasuries. (Proverbs 8:17–21)*

Christ is promising us his fullness, from his very heart.

- Vs 12-21 give us reasons to hear and take the wisdom of Christ rather than everything this fraudulent world offers.
- Vs 22-31 go all the way back to the beginning, back to the creation, 'with more reasons to hear and take his wisdom:

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Proverbs 8:17-19 The Agelessness of Wisdom

*17] I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.
18] Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.
19] My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.*

We cannot come up empty-handed, if we seek him with a diligent heart.

"Those who seek me diligently find me" (verse 17)

— the adverb "diligently" means "with intentionality, on purpose, going out of our usual way, breaking with routine, as the priority in life."

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Proverbs 8:17-19 The Agelessness of Wisdom

17] I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Solomon learned this early in his life.

He discovered that when he sought God, God gave him wisdom.

He had sought God early—as soon as he became king. He knew it was God who had given him a unique wisdom.

And God is prepared to give us wisdom if we are willing to meet the conditions:

a diligent study and love of the Word of God early in our Christian life.

Proverbs 8:18-22

(Pro 8:18 ISV*) ¶ Wealth and honor accompany me, as do enduring wealth and righteousness. 19) ¶ My fruit is better than gold, better [The Heb. lacks better] than even refined gold, and my benefit surpasses the purest silver. 20) ¶ I walk on the way of righteousness, along paths that are just, 21) ¶ I bequeath wealth to those who love me, and I will fill their treasuries.” 22) ¶ “The LORD made me as he began his planning, [Lit. ways] before his ancient activity commenced.

(Pro 8:18 KJV+) Riches^{H6239} and honour^{H3519} are with^{H854} me; yea, durable^{H6276} riches^{H1952} and righteousness.^{H6666} 19) My fruit^{H6529} is better^{H2896} than gold,^{H4480 H2742} yea, than fine gold,^{H4480 H6337} and my revenue^{H8393} than choice^{H977} silver.^{H4480 H3701} 20) I lead^{H1980} in the way^{H734} of righteousness,^{H6666} in the midst^{H8432} of the paths^{H5410} of judgment.^{H4941} 21) That I may cause those that love^{H157} me to inherit^{H5157} substance;^{H3426} and I will fill^{H4390} their treasures.^{H214} 22) The LORD^{H3068} possessed^{H7069} me in the beginning^{H7225} of his way,^{H1870} before^{H6924} his works^{H4659} of old.^{H4480 H227}

Proverbs 8:18-22

(Pro 8:18 NASB) "Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness. 19) "My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield better than choicest silver. 20) "I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, 21) To endow those who love me with wealth, That I may fill their treasuries. 22) "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

(Pro 8:18 NIV) With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity. 19) My fruit is better than fine gold; what I yield surpasses choice silver. 20) I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, 21) bestowing wealth on those who love me and making their treasuries full. 22) "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;

Proverbs 8:18-22

(Pro 8:22 NASB) "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old

Wisdom is not acquired by God, but by men, angels, and other created beings.

Wisdom existed before:

1. God's creations of old (**Prov 8:22**)
2. The creation of the earth (**Prov 8:23**)
3. The depths and fountains of waters (**Prov 8:24**)
4. The mountains and hills (**Prov 8:25**)
5. The earth, fields, and dust of the world (**Prov 8:26**)
6. The heavens and the clouds (**Prov 8:28**)
7. The laws governing creation (**Prov 8:29**)

Proverbs 8:18-22

God honors an earnest heart offering a seeker **“riches and honor” (v. 18).**

God does not despise earthly incentives.

But, if we love and seek money as our prize, it will ruin us.

The Bible warns us that just desiring money — not necessarily getting it but just desiring it — destroys us (**1 Tim 6:9**).

If we love and seek Christ as the prize of our hearts,

Then He supplies all the money and all the treasure and all the honor we will need to love him and serve him according to his will and plan for us.

That kind of gracious privilege cannot ruin us, because it doesn't own us deep inside. Jesus does.

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Proverbs 8:18-22

(Pro 8:20 NASB) “I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice,

If he walks in the way of righteousness, how can he fail to keep his promises even to fools and beginners who are seeking him?

He doesn't just love not geniuses and experts

— he loves those who love him enough to seek him.

If we are walking in His way, on the path where He is walking, we cannot help but 'bump' into Him and travel together and share the journey.

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Prov 8:22-31 Wisdom Preceded and Celebrated

The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old.

Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water.

Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.

When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit,

so that the waters might not transgress his command,

when he marked out the foundations of the earth,

then I was beside him, like a master workman,⁶

and I was daily filled with delight,:

rejoicing before him always,

rejoicing in his inhabited world

and delighting in the children of man. (Proverbs 8:22—31)

Prov 8:22-31 Wisdom Preceded and Celebrated

Wisdom was God's first creation.

He wired wisdom into the cosmos as the inner logic of everything.

Wisdom was how everything started and how everything still works.

We were born into this world long after things were set up.

We cannot control our environment; we can ruin it or adjust to it.

Biblical wisdom is more than handy tips.

Wisdom is the secret code to reality.

In the Bible the Creator's wisdom is speaking to us, so that it isn't a secret anymore.

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Prov 8:22-31 Wisdom Preceded and Celebrated

Wisdom is external to us.

The wisdom we need for our lives is not inside us:
it is outside us.

We are not meant to listen to ourselves.

We have too much to learn.

We have a good reason to listen to Christ's wisdom.

Wisdom is joyous over us.

Wisdom is not a nag.

Joy breaks out whenever wisdom is exercised.

Wisdom is God's creation in sync with God's plan,
the process(es) He built into His creation....

Proverbs 8:23-26

**23] I was set up from everlasting,
from the beginning, or ever the earth was.**

**24] When there were no depths, I was brought forth;
when there were no fountains abounding with
water.**

**25] Before the mountains were settled,
before the hills was I brought forth:**

**26] While as yet he had not made the earth,
nor the fields,
nor the highest part of the dust of the world.**

Proverbs 8:

**(Pro 8:23 ISV*) ¶ From eternity I was appointed, from the
beginning, from before there was land.**

**(Pro 8:23 KJV+) I was set up^{H5258} from everlasting,^{H4480}
^{H5769} from the beginning,^{H4480 H7218} or ever^{H4480 H6924} the
earth^{H776} was.**

**(Pro 8:23 NASB) "From everlasting I was established,
From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.**

**(Pro 8:23 NIV) I was appointed from eternity, from the
beginning, before the world began.**

Proverbs 8:23

**(Pro 8:23 NASB) "From everlasting I was established,
From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.**

From the beginning of the ages.

"I was set up" = I was **anointed** from everlasting.

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God. The same was in the
beginning with God" (John 1:1, 2).**

He was begotten, not in the sense of having a beginning of
life, but as being one nature and substance with the Father.

Way back yonder in eternity He was God, and He was in the
beginning with God.

He was in the beginning that *has* no beginning, because "in
the beginning was the Word."

He was already past tense at the time of the beginning.

Proverbs 8:24-26

Verses 24—26 describe the pre-creation conditions that God shaped into the creation.

Wisdom is saying,

“When everything was still a chaotic mess, without form and void, God created me first to fix it. God considered me indispensable.

So how about your lives?

May I help you with your mess?”

This is Christ speaking — the one offering himself is joyous about his creation.

Christ is enthusiastic about his creation, he is exuberant, he is wholehearted.

Proverbs 8:24-26

Here is the gospel.

1. Because of God, everything in the creation is good.
2. Because of Adam, everything God made is marred and tragic — including our personal responses to everything God made.
3. Because of Christ, everything God made will be redeemed.

Even now everything is, in principle, eligible for wise enjoyment under Christ (**1 Tim 4:1—5**).

- The NFL is good, fallen, and redeemable.
- Gardening is good, fallen, and redeemable.
- Your job is good, fallen, and redeemable.
- Everything — the arts, the military, family life — everything God created is good,
and we should rejoice in God our Creator.

Proverbs 8:24-26

John Calvin: “There is not one little blade of grass, there is no color in this world, that is not intended to make men rejoice.”

The doctrine of creation has gospel power to put life and zest back into us.

Only the Biblical worldview gushes with enthusiasm over this world we live in and our own humanness.

It frees us to be enthusiastic.

“A joyful heart is good medicine” (Pro 17:22).

Proverbs 8:24

(Pro 8:24 ISV*) ¶ When there were no ocean depths, I brought them [The Heb. lacks them] to birth at a time when there were no springs.

(Pro 8:24 KJV+) When there were no^{H369} depths,^{H8415} I was brought forth;^{H2342} when there were no^{H369} fountains^{H4599} abounding^{H3513} with water.^{H4325}

(Pro 8:24 NASB) "When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.

(Pro 8:24 NIV) When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water;

[I was brought forth] I was produced or manifested in the plan of God as well as in the creation of all things.

By me (wisdom) God made all things (**Ps 104:24; 136:5**).

Proverbs 8:25-26

(Pro 8:25 ISV*) ¶ Before the mountains were shaped, before there were hills, I was bringing them ^[The Heb. lacks them] to birth.
26) ¶ Even though he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the world's first grains of dust,

(Pro 8:25 KJV+) Before^{H2962} the mountains^{H2022} were settled,^{H2883} before^{H6440} the hills^{H1389} was I brought forth:^{H2342}
26) While as yet^{H5704} he had not^{H3808} made^{H6213} the earth,^{H776} nor the fields,^{H2351} nor the highest part^{H7218} of the dust^{H6083} of the world.^{H8398}

(Pro 8:25 NASB) "Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I was brought forth; 26) While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.

(Pro 8:25 NIV) before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, 26) before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.

[highest part of the dust of the world] Before He made the first particle of matter — the primitive atom.

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Proverbs 8:27

(Pro 8:27 ISV*) ¶ when he crafted the heavens, I was there—when he marked out a circle on the face of the deep,

(Pro 8:27 KJV+) When he prepared^{H3559} the heavens,^{H8064} I^{H589} was there:^{H8033} when he set^{H2710} a compass^{H2329} upon^{H5921} the face^{H6440} of the depth:^{H8415}

(Pro 8:27 NASB) "When He established the heavens, I was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,

(Pro 8:27 NIV) I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

[When he prepared the heavens, I was there] This was before the creation of the earth (**Gen 1:1; Job 38:4-7**).

[compass] A circle or vault.

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Proverbs 8:28

(Pro 8:28 ISV*) ¶ when he made the clouds from above, when the springs of the depths were established,

(Pro 8:28 KJV+) When he established^{H553} the clouds^{H7834} above:^{H4480 H4605} when he strengthened^{H5810} the fountains^{H5869} of the deep:^{H8415}

(Pro 8:28 NASB) When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,

(Pro 8:28 NIV) when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,

[fountains of the deep]

Gen 7:11; 8:2; Rev 16:4.

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Proverbs 8:29

(Pro 8:29 ISV*) ¶ when he set a boundary for the sea so the waters would not exceed his limits, ^[Lit. command] when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

(Pro 8:29 KJV+) When he gave^{H7760} to the sea^{H3220} his decree,^{H2706} that the waters^{H4325} should not^{H3808} pass^{H5674} his commandment:^{H6310} when he appointed^{H2710} the foundations^{H4146} of the earth:^{H776}

(Pro 8:29 NASB) When He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;

(Pro 8:29 NIV) when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth.

[when he appointed the foundations of the earth] All this refers to the original creation of the heavens and earth long before the six days of **Gen 1:3-2:25**.

All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:3

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Proverbs 8:30

(Pro 8:30 ISV) ¶ Then I was with him, his master craftsman—I was his delight [So LXX; MT reads was filled with delight] daily, continuously rejoicing in his presence,*

(Pro 8:30 KJV+) Then I was^{H1961} by^{H681} him, as one brought up^{H525} with him: and I was^{H1961} daily^{H3117 H3117} his delight,^{H8191} rejoicing^{H7832} always^{H3605 H6256} before^{H6440} him;

(Pro 8:30 NASB) Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

(Pro 8:30 NIV) Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,

Proverbs 8:30

(Pro 8:30 NASB) Then I was beside Him, as a master workman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

Wisdom is pictured here as a child always near its parent, watching him in his work and under his constant care.

The passage is a personification of wisdom, not a proof of the deity and eternity of Jesus Christ.

These doctrines are plainly expressed in many other scriptures directly on the subject (*Isa 9:6-7; Mic 5:2; John 1:1-2; Col 1:15-18; Heb 1:1-8; Rev 1:8; etc.*).

Proverbs 8:31

(Pro 8:31 ISV) ¶ rejoicing in his inhabitable world and taking delight in mankind.”*

(Pro 8:31 KJV+) Rejoicing^{H7832} in the habitable part^{H8398} of his earth;^{H776} and my delights^{H8191} were with^{H854} the sons^{H1121} of men.^{H120}

(Pro 8:31 NASB) Rejoicing in the world, His earth, And having my delight in the sons of men.

(Pro 8:31 NIV) rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

[Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth] Wisdom is especially displayed in the works of God in the affairs of men.

God's providence is over all, and all are subjects of His eternal care.

Proverbs 8:32-36 The Exhortation of Wisdom

Wisdom Invites and Warns

*“And now, O sons, listen to me:
blessed are those who keep my ways.
Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.*

*Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.*

*For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,
but he who fails to find me injures himself:
all who hate me love death.” (Proverbs 8:32—36)*

Proverbs 8:32-36 The Exhortation of Wisdom

Wisdom Invites and Warns

The wisdom of Christ is the one and only true necessity in your life.

And you must embrace him wholeheartedly.

You must become decisive for him. “

Wisdom is possible for man by following, by discipleship,” not by holding back in critical detachment with an endless wait-and-see skepticism.

If you do enter in, Christ is promising you a true life, a life worth living, under the smile of God.

Hold everything else lightly, but grab hold of Jesus Christ, the crucified Friend of sinners and never let him go.

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12).

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Proverbs 8:32

(Pro 8:32 ISV*) ¶ “So listen to me, children! Blessed are those who obey me.

(Pro 8:32 KJV+) Now^{H6258} therefore hearken^{H8085} unto me, O ye children:^{H1121} for blessed^{H835} are they that keep^{H8104} my ways.^{H1870}

(Pro 8:32 NASB) "Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways.

(Pro 8:32 NIV) "Now then, my sons, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.

[blessed are thy that keep my ways] Happy are they who keep my ways, and whoever finds wisdom obtains favor or grace from the Lord (***Prov 8:32-35***).

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The Book of Proverbs

Proverbs 8:33-36

(Pro 8:33 ISV*) ¶ Listen to instruction and be wise. Don't ignore it. 34) ¶ Blessed is the person who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorways— 35) ¶ because those who find me find life and gain favor from the LORD. 36) ¶ But whoever sins against me destroys himself; everyone who hates me loves death.”

(Pro 8:33 KJV+) Hear^{H8085} instruction,^{H4148} and be wise,^{H2449} and refuse^{H6544} it not.^{H408} 34) Blessed^{H835} is the man^{H120} that heareth^{H8085} me, watching^{H8245} daily^{H3117} at^{H5921} my gates,^{H1817} waiting^{H8104} at the posts^{H4201} of my doors.^{H6607} 35) For^{H3588} whose findeth^{H4672} me findeth^{H4672} life,^{H2416} and shall obtain^{H6329} favour^{H7522} of the LORD.^{H4480} H3068 36) But he that sinneth against^{H2398} me wrongeth^{H2554} his own soul:^{H5315} all^{H3605} they that hate^{H8130} me love^{H157} death.^{H4194}

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Proverbs 8:33-36

(Pro 8:33 NASB) "Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it. 34) "Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. 35) "For he who finds me finds life And obtains favor from the LORD. 36) "But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

[all they that hate me love death] They that hate wisdom love sin which leads to death, so they can be justly accused of loving death, the penalty for sin (***John 3:19***).

The irony is, if you protect yourself from him, you injure yourself

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Proverbs 8:33-36

The one who rejects wisdom and sins against her does so to the damnation of his own soul (**Prov 8:36**).

It is therefore not so much sin and Satan, but the man himself that is responsible for his rejection or reception of wisdom which leads to eternal life.

If he receives the teaching of God, sin will not have dominion over him, and if he resists Satan, the devil will flee from him (**James 4:7; Rom 6:14-23; 8:12-13**).

Proverbs 8:33-36

(Pro 8:38 NASB) "But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

Verse 36 could be translated, "**He who fails to find me does violence to himself.**"

Christ loves you more than you love yourself.

You can have him, not by heroic intellectual pursuit but by humbly admitting the truth, you are a fool.

It is not the one who comes offering himself to Christ that is acceptable, but, the one who comes to Christ recognizing he has nothing to offer Christ...

Who is the embodiment of wisdom? Jesus Christ!