

WISDOM IS CALLING

Proverbs 1:20-33

The Call of Wisdom

Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, because you disdained all my counsel, and would have none of my rebuke, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, when your terror comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke.

Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; **But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.**"

Wisdom is calling to us today, even now. This passage of Scripture is telling us that a storm is brewing, God's judgment is coming, and for God's people to listen up, and to repent. That repentance is in turning to God through the saving grace that is in Christ Jesus, as He has been revealed to us as the New and Living **Covenant** with God, and that we are to take refuge in Him, through the fear of the Lord. Jesus gave the parable of building one's house on the rock. Jesus concluded, **"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."** (Matthew 7:24-25) Saying a storm is brewing and that God's judgment is coming is not taking the Scripture in Proverbs out of context, for it IS the Word of the Lord, as wisdom cries to each generation, and to us today. It is not a scare tactic, contrived by the powers that be in this world, intended to control the people, as I've heard it said. It a recurring cycle that takes place from one generation to the next. You ever notice how each generation says something like,

"oh get with the 21st century", like they are just a little more illumined than the previous generation? There is truly, as Solomon said, "nothing new under the sun". (**Ecclesiastes 1:9**) Yet, "From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised." (**Psalms 113:3**) That goes for each generation, even now. That isn't just in giving God lip-service, but in hearing the Word as the Holy Spirit is speaking to us, and to be wise and not only hear the Word but to be a doer of the Word. The Apostle James said just that, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (**James 1:22**) Wisdom is calling, can you hear?

"May your people, Heavenly Father, have ears to hear and hearts to receive your Wisdom today and in the days that follow. May Your people be grounded in the foundation of Your Word and immovable, irregardless of their place or circumstances, in Jesus' Wonderful Name". Wisdom is calling to us. I'm of course not speaking of me using my wisdom today or any day in calling to God's people. My wisdom, that is, the wisdom that I cling to, is not my own. The Wisdom I refer to is the Word of God. The Apostle Paul tells us of four things that come from God through Christ, of which we cannot take credit for, and to which all glory goes to God alone. In **1 Corinthians 1:30**, Paul reminds us, that God, through Christ Jesus is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. That is, by the revelation that comes from the Holy Spirit, He gives us wisdom to accept the free gift of God, His Righteousness in Christ Jesus and to then live in His Righteousness (to abide in Christ as the Apostle John records Jesus as saying in **John 15**), to live in His Righteousness to have fellowship with God, and He then sets us apart to live in His Holiness (that is Sanctification), and we begin our new lives in our Redemption that is in Christ Jesus! Is Christ Jesus, the Word of God, your Wisdom? That would mean you're abiding in His Word, right? Is He your Righteousness? That would mean you are in fellowship with God, right? Is He your Sanctification? That would express itself in our holy living, right? Is He your Redemption? That would be demonstrated by what Paul said in **Galatians 2:20**, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." If you answered yes, to all four of those, are you then living in His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption? Meaning, are you abiding in Christ? A true litmus test so to speak, is in the bearing the fruit of the Spirit of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) Similarly, are we living our lives unto the Lord, by loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and loving others. That is what Jesus said was the greatest commandment and the second that is like unto it. (**Mark 12:30-31**)

None of us are perfect, and all have sinned against God, but we are to be practicing, so to speak, His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption as He works in us and not living our lives practicing sin. (**1 John 3:10**) Yet if we do sin against God, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (**John 1:9**)

That process of salvation and then abiding in Christ is described by Paul in His letter to the Ephesians saying, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should **walk in them.**" (**Ephesians 2:8-10**) Another example of that process is in **John 1:12-13**, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." We are led by the Spirit of God to turn to Him for forgiveness of sins, we are led to believe on Christ Jesus, and He then "set[s] his seal of ownership on us, and put[s] his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (**2 Corinthians 1:22**) That IS the Wisdom that comes from God through our Redemption that is in Christ Jesus. We are then to be "practicing" the fruit of the Spirit and we are also to be depending on the fruit of the Spirit. Just because you don't experience a powerful flow of the love of God working in you, doesn't mean it is ok to hate on others or be rude to them or to get into meaningless arguments. That is why it is important to know, and have His Word in your heart, and knowing the fruit of the Spirit.

The wisdom I chased after in times past seduced me into all kinds of the luring traps of this world-which leads to nowhere except a great pit of doom and despair. But by the grace and mercies of God, he called me, calls us, "out of the darkness and into His marvelous light". (**1 Peter 2:9**) Then, the Wisdom of God tells us that God isn't just SAVING YOU, but He is continuing in calling to His lost people, to those who are not abiding in Christ, living in His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, and are not bearing the fruit of the Spirit. That is how we are then blessed to participate in the building of His eternal kingdom, the encouraging and uplifting of His people, one person at a time, so to speak. That is how we come to say that we are called to share and show the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus. That is the good works that God works in us through His Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption and through the working of the Spirit that dwells in us, bearing the fruit of the Spirit. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has **given us the ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world

to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has **committed to us the word of reconciliation.**" (2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

God intends that for all of us, as His creation, and as children of God, or really, as men and women of God. We don't want to stay as a nursing child all of our days, do we? We grow up in the Word, in Christ, to become a man or woman of God, as we learn to know Him, trust Him, and honor Him as our God, Lord, and Savior, and as our Heavenly Father! True, pure, and perfect wisdom though is from God alone, that is given to us through Christ Jesus, and the Word of God, and it is not from this world, or any of the writings of this world, as it does not derive solely from the mind of man.

Anyone that would want to argue that Jesus was a man and that therefore wisdom did come from man, there are two problems with that.

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." The Word that the Apostle John speaks of is Christ Jesus and He was God manifested to us as a man, yet He was, is, and always shall be God. "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (1 John 5:7) There are many other Scriptures that speak to Jesus being God incarnate, such as Hebrews 1:3 says, in referring to Christ Jesus as one "who being the brightness of His [God's] glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power".
2. Jesus, while on this earth said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." (John 5:19)

Part of the passage of Scripture that we looked at last week, in 1 Corinthians 3, tells us, "Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. " (1 Corinthians 3:18-21) Paul was telling the Corinthian church that whether they looked at their leader as being Paul or Apollos or Cephas (being Peter) our foundation is laid on Christ Jesus alone. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11) Christ alone IS the Way, Truth, and Life and as Jesus then said "No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) Once again, as the Apostle Paul told his beloved spiritual son Timothy, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in

righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**" (2 Timothy 2:16-17)

Psalm 1 starts out saying, "Blessed is the man who **walks not in the counsel of the ungodly**, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night." (**Psalm 1:1-2**) How wonderful is the Word of God, that, through the counsel of the Holy Spirit, He guides us into all truth. (**John 16:13**) That is, all truth as it applies to us concerning the plan and purpose of God. I enjoy studying church history and history of ancient civilizations, but by and large I am not studying it to be illumined and to know all things. It entertains my mind, I enjoy it. It is in the Word of God that will make you complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work and will lead you into the truth that God purposes for you, for us, to know.

By our passage of Scripture, and as we can see throughout the Bible, the Word of God, that God is merciful and longsuffering toward us, as we are His creation and we are intended to be His people. He expects to be our God as He alone is God. We are reminded of that from what God Almighty tells the prophet Isaiah to tell His people. "Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'" (**Isaiah 46:9-11**) For our passage of Scripture in **Proverbs 1**, it says, "Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; **But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.**" I don't want to eat the fruit of my own way and be filled to the full with my own fancies. I've tried that and it only leads to hungering and thirsting for more. We want what Jesus promises, "**Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.**" (**John 7:38**) -To which we become like Christ and He becomes us, being One in Christ!

Similarly, our Scripture in **Proverbs 1** is what we seek after, "Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you." Also, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (**Psalm 91:1-2**) Can you hear what wisdom is saying, "whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil." That doesn't mean we won't have trials, pain, suffering, grief, or even the loss of loved ones. It does mean that no matter what I will put my trust in my Lord, God, and Savior as He is perfect in all His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**). Praise God from whom all blessings flow!