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*“Equipping believers for **growth** and **service** by encountering God through his word.”*

# The Bible for Today

September 9, 2009



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# Ten Lessons in the Prologue

1. Warning and Rebuke: 1:8-33
2. Safeguard against the Wicked: 2:1-22
- 3 & 4. The Value of Wisdom: 3:1-35
- 5 to 7. The Supremacy of Wisdom: 4:1-27
8. Warnings against Adultery, Folly, Wickedness: 5:1-6:19
9. Further Warning against Adultery: 6:20-35
10. The Unfaithful Wife and Wisdom's Call: 7:1-8:36
- Epilogue: Rival Banquets of Wisdom and Folly: 9:1-18

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## Lessons 5 to 7:

# The Supremacy of Wisdom (4:1-27)

### Lesson 5 (4:1-9):

A family heritage: continue/ pass along wisdom.

*The home* is the place of wisdom; attitudes, values, perceptions (good or bad); society provides an opposing voice to our youth.

Vs 7: (difficult) literally, “with all your getting, get understanding.” NEB, “gain understanding although it cost you all you have.”

Vs 8: “construct a highway;” being above, exalt

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# The Supremacy of Wisdom con't...

Lesson 6 (4:10-19): A straight path to walk

Stay away from the wicked (keep moving)—  
calculating, heart of wrong; the wicked need  
to take advantage of others; a contrast of  
light and dark

Vs12: the wise way is unhampered, broad/ not  
cramped path

Vs 19: “deep darkness” (one Hebrew word-  
always associated with terror)

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# The Supremacy of Wisdom con't...

Lesson 7 (4:20-27): A straight path to walk  
Stay on the high/ righteous path of wisdom  
(level, straightforward way)

‘Halakah’ (Rabbinic teaching)— the way of  
walking (it is a sure path)

*The path of wisdom takes self discipline,  
vigilance; does not come without cost.*

[pay attention, listen, guard, avoid, look, keep  
the instruction]

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# Lesson 8: Warnings against Adultery, (Folly, Wickedness): 5:1-6:19

Little teaching about adultery in the rest of Proverbs; a major lesson in this section

Vss 3-14: charm of the adulterer, but it is deadly, ruins life (RUN!!) Gen. 39--Joseph

A healthy desire, not guarded, becomes easy prey.

Payment for adultery is personal and social ruin.

Vss 15-20: marriage fidelity; Song of Songs-a celebration of sex and relationship (not a thing)

Vss 21-23: play on words (*wrap*)- *wrapped* in love of wife, not *wrapped* in adultery, which will *wrap* one in a funeral shroud.

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# (Folly, Wickedness): 6:1-5, 6-11, 12-19

Oddly placed texts in the sequence of adultery

Vss 1-5: securing a debt of another; be careful of generosity

Vss 6-11: sloth/ laziness; easy to fall into this lifestyle

Vss 12-19: be careful of wicked; body language can signal intent; watch whole body

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# Lesson 9: Further Warning against Adultery (6:20-35)

A price will be paid for adultery:

- Punishment (will get burned)
- Disgrace
- Vengeance of the husband

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# Lesson 10: The Unfaithful Wife and Wisdom's Call: 7:1-8:36

Vss 1-5: Invitation to pay attention to the teaching of the father

Vss 6-27: A story of an unfaithful wife; “once upon a time;” naïve youth (going where should not have been?); woman gives a religious context assuring it is okay (vs 14); it will lead to death.

# Lady Wisdom's Call: 8:1-36

- Many difficulties in this chapter
- Vocalization of (ׁmn) five different ways
- Scholarly divide: wisdom an attribute of God or a poetic personification?

Vss 22-31: ambiguous Hebrew; some words multiple meanings; context gives meaning

[consistency of Hebrew in other sections and Bible; God created the world and gives wisdom on how to live rightly; Lady Wisdom a poetic device for instruction]

*The Central Point: vss 32-36— Blessed are those who keep the words of wisdom; finding life and joy.*

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## Epilogue:

# Rival Banquets of Wisdom and Folly

## Chapter 9:1-18:

- Wise and mockers (self focused) contrasted
- Teach the wise and they will get wiser (get wisdom)
- Vs 10: fear of the Lord and knowledge lead to wisdom and godly/ right decisions.
- Folly calls out to the simple; they will be lead to death.

*Choose what banquet to go to—be wise...*

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# The Bible for Today

- Two paths for life: wisdom or folly, no middle ground. We have to make decisions that will lead to good life or heartache.
- We grow in wisdom as we live wisely; repeated behavior/ effort brings a normal course of living (Lesson 6—like sunrise to full day)
- Sexuality of the time can harm; an instruction to help our children reason about this.
- The challenge to the fidelity, commitment of marriage.
- Hard work of biblical study— at times the ambiguity of the texts.