
Proverbs
Seek Wisdom
Find Life



The Appeal of Wisdom

Including
Proverbs 1:20-31
Proverbs 8:1-10
Proverbs 9:1-6

WHAT IS THE APPEAL WISDOM MAKES?

TO WHAT VIRTUE DOES IT IN YOU?

DOES IT HAVE ANY FOR YOU?



WISDOM TEST!

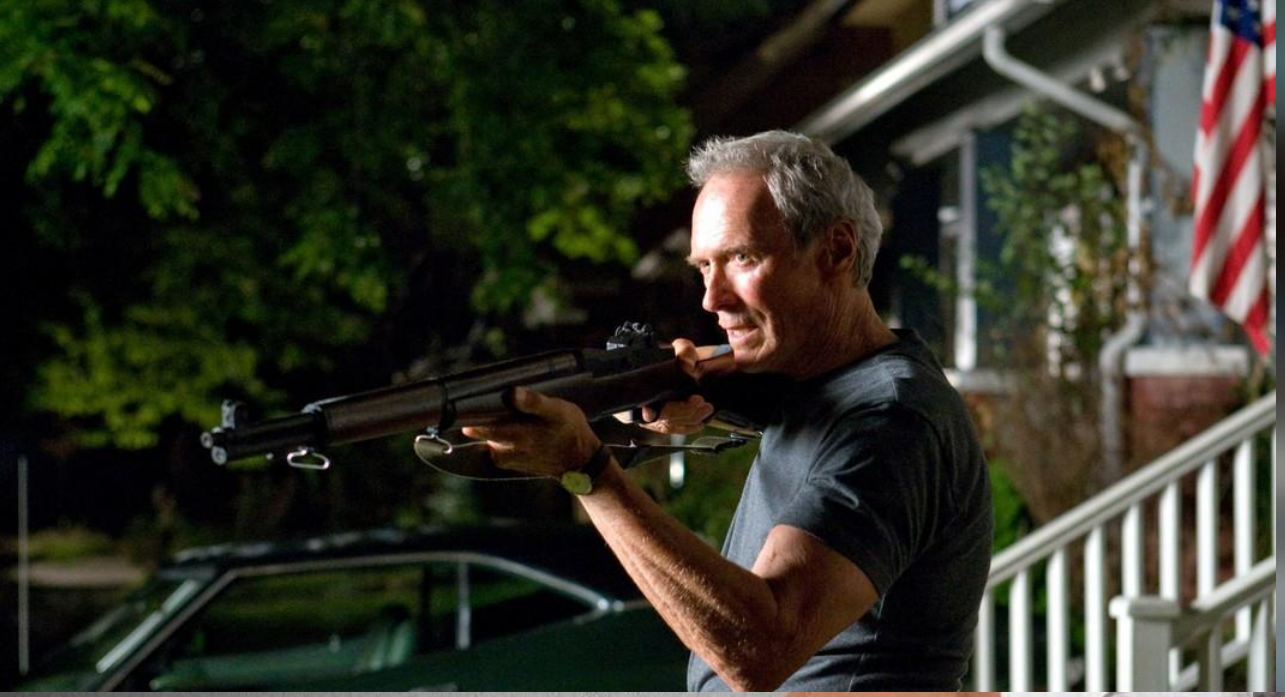


Envision an average “the appeal of wisdom” sermon.



What facial expressions, tone, level of urgency, or general vibe came to mind?











An APPEAL is a serious or urgent request, "to drive" its audience "to" act.

It might APPEAL to our better natures or self-interest.

An APPEAL wants change.

You might find it APPEALing, or not.



Judgmental?
An attack?
Stern?
“Yeah, yeah…”
Unfriendly?
“NERD.”
Rude?



Does your reaction match?



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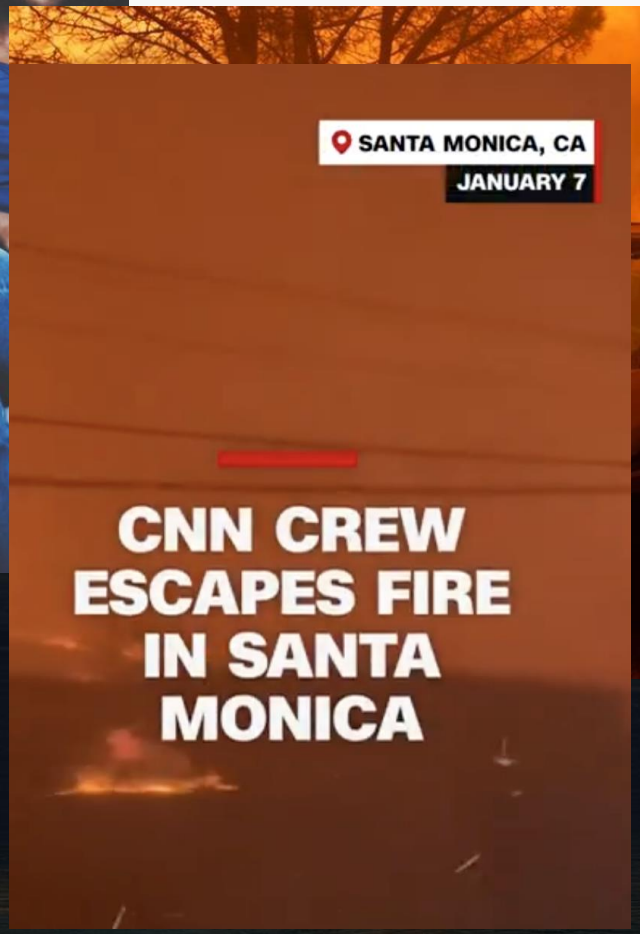





Does your reaction match?



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Does your reaction match?



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Does your reaction match?






LOST
STRIFE
CHAOS
MY OWN WAY
AUTONOMY
DEATH
APPETITES
GREED
COMPETITION
DESTINATION
GLORY
INTEGRITY
GOD'S WAY
COMMUNITY
LIFE
PEACE
WISDOM
EASE

Suppose wisdom were a person.

Imagine her.

What is she like? What is her tone?



As described to a young man,
Wisdom is a woman who is
trying to get his attention.



In public, at a crossroads,
she asks him to listen to her.
She offers wise life, food, wine, gifts
time-sensitive, instead of his own path.
Ignorance is not bliss, but ruin.

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As described to a young man,
Wisdom isn't the only woman
trying to get his attention.



In her door, or seated in power
Foolish women call him
off-course, offering shortcuts,
while he's busy straightening his path.
She offers "sweetness" but hides death.

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Let's explore Wisdom's APPEAL.

It is an INVITATION

To TURN FROM DANGER

To TRUST IN GOD

To ENJOY RIGHTEOUS LIFE



Tone: Wisdom is Full of Invitation

- "Repent," "turn to my reproof," i.e. "turn this way!"
- "I will pour out my spirit on you;

  I will make my words known to you." (Proverbs 1:23)
- Stretches out her hand (Proverbs 1:24)
- She promises good things (Proverbs 1:33)



Tone: Wisdom is Full of Invitation

- "Blessed" (Proverbs 8:32,34)
- Find her, find life, obtain God's favor (Proverbs 8:35)
- She prepares hospitably for you (Proverbs 9:1-2)
- Food, wine (Proverbs 9:5)
- "live"! "proceed"!



Invitation Logic: who is Wisdom for?

- *"turn this way!"*
  - People gone astray — everybody! (Isaiah 53:6)
  - People missing the mark — everybody! (Rom. 3:23)
- *"I will pour out my spirit on you"*
  - People who lack a wise spirit—everyone! (Ps. 53:1-2)
- *"I will make my words known to you."*
  - People who can't find the words—everyone!



Her INVITATION has APPEAL!

It is FRIENDLY
to you.











Her INVITATION
and APPEAL to you
is EVERYWHERE
you look.
It's WHERE YOU'RE
STARTING TODAY



Proverbs 1:20-21

20 Wisdom shouts in the street,
She lifts her voice in the square;
21 At the head of the noisy *streets* she cries out;
At the entrance of the gates in the city
she utters her sayings



Proverbs 8:1-3

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;
3 Beside the gates, at the opening to the city,
At the entrance of the doors, she cries out:



Invitation Contents Today



- Date, Time, Address — don't go elsewhere, or miss it
- Host — who will host you? To whom do you RSVP?
- Details — what are we celebrating, and how?

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Invitation Contents Today

Date, Time, Address — warnings (don’t get lost, or miss it)

Host — authority and trust (you yield to their hospitality)

Details — promising facts (attending will be worthwhile!)



Wisdom's Invitation to Life: Contents

WARNING — Turn around now. Your life is *this* way! Today!

TRUST GOD — He is the source of wisdom and life.

LIVE! — Enjoy the peaceful fruit of right life.



1. THE FIRST APPEAL OF WISDOM:
WARNING.
TURN FROM DANGER!



COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE



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Wisdom is Full of Warning

- You better watch out: choose the right way, now
- About what danger are we warned?
  - your "own way" (Proverbs 1:31)
  - heeding her too late (1:24-32)
  - calamity, dread, distress, anguish (1:26-27)
  - death, destruction (1:32)



WHEN is the DANGER?

It is RIGHT NOW.



“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 not accept my counsel,
They spurned all my reproof.
“So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way
And be satiated with their own devices.
“For the waywardness of the naive will kill them,
And the complacency of fools will destroy them.

Proverbs 1:28-32



“He who neglects
discipline despises himself,
But he who listens to reproof
acquires understanding.”

Proverbs 15:32



2. THE SECOND APPEAL OF WISDOM:

BELIEVE GOD.



Proverbs 9:10

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.



…fear of the Lord?
…knowledge of the Holy One?

Holy is like boundaries.

Fear and safety are two sides of the same "holiness" coin.



Wisdom is in GOD

- You better not cry: thankfulness and trust, not worry
- What about God is wise to believe?
  - God decides your plan (16:3, 19:21)
  - Wisdom comes from fearing God (1:7, 28)
  - God owns all resources
  - God, not money, decides your fate



Wisdom is Not a Woman

- We should pursue her, as a young man selects a mate
- But wisdom is an attribute of God
  - There with God from the beginning
  - Woven throughout His creation and works
  - Parallels with Jesus' characteristics
  - Is a spirit poured out on people (1:23, Jas. 3:17)



GOD IS NOT AN OPTIONAL PART.
WISDOM COMES FROM TRUSTING GOD AND SEEING THAT WORK OUT.
GOD'S WISDOM: (1) CHALLENGES CONVENTIONAL WISDOM; AND (2) OUTPERFORMS IT



3. THE THIRD APPEAL OF WISDOM:
GOOD LIVING.



Proverbs 9:10-11

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
11 For by me your days will be multiplied,
And years of life will be added to you.



God's Wisdom is Good for LIFE

- You better not pout: wisdom makes us productive
- What quality of life comes from wisdom?
  - Protection, preservation (2:8)
  - Discerning every good path (2:9)
  - Stability, integrity, delight, a good name
  - Safety like a tower (18:10)
  - Thriving like a green leaf (11:28)



WISDOM'S APPEALS
WORK TOGETHER
for your good.



Proverbs 14:27

27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life,
That one may avoid the snares of death.

i.e., TRUST GOD. +
GET LIFE. +
AVOID DANGERS.



Proverbs 19:23

23 The fear of the Lord leads to life,
So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

i.e., TRUST GOD. +
GET LIFE. +
AVOID DANGERS.



Proverbs 22:4

4 The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord
Are riches, honor and life.

i.e., TRUST GOD. +
GET GOOD LIFE.



Proverbs 29:25

25 The fear of man brings a snare,
But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

i.e., TRUST GOD. +
GET GOOD LIFE.



FROM GOD,
WISDOM HELPS TO SAVE
WISDOM HELPS TO SUSTAIN
WISDOM HELPS TO SANCTIFY



Save: OK. Sustain: OK. What's ...Sanctify?

SANCTUS, Lat. "Holy"

HOLY, Eng. (same root as "whole")

קֹדֶשׁ("KODESH"), Heb.
"set apart for a purpose"



“…set apart for a purpose”?

“Set apart” is like **healthy boundaries.**

If you’re outside… you’re the threat.
If you’re inside… you’re what’s protected.



Proverbs 25:28

28 Like a city that is broken into and without
walls
So is a person who has no self-control over his
spirit.



“…set apart for a purpose”?

“For a purpose” is God’s creative license.

You’re a free gift from your Maker.
Your physical life is a free gift.
Your spiritual life is a free gift.
God had a purpose for you.



Psalm 139:13-14

13 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.



Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.



Romans 8:28

28 And we know that God causes all things to
work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are called according
to His purpose.

WHAT DOES GOD'S PURPOSE HAVE TO DO WITH A GOOD LIFE?



Matthew 6:33

33 But seek first His kingdom and His
righteousness, and all these things will
be added to you.



FORESHADOWING:

GOD LOVES YOU

HE ALWAYS PLANNED TO SAVE YOU

HE ALWAYS IS FAITHFUL TO YOU

HE ALWAYS WANTS TO SANCTIFY YOU



THE 3 APPEALS INTERSECT AT JESUS

JESUS IS GOD'S WISDOM (1 Co. 1:24)

WHO DIED TO SAVE US FROM SIN

WHO WE TRUST FOR EVERYTHING

WHO GIVES US FRUITFUL PURPOSE



WISDOM'S APPEAL FOR YOU TODAY




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"'May you be happy in the life you have chosen!' She left him; and they parted."

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CAN YOU RESPOND TO WISDOM'S APPEALS?



Heart-level challenge first



Practical Steps



HOW TO RESPOND TO WISDOM'S APPEALS

- Heart-level:
  - Pray. “Listen” for a sense of conviction.
  - Ask for warnings, faith, and purpose
  - Ask what I treasure (21:2; Mt. 6:21, 1Sa 16:7)
  - What is God warning me about?
  - More than God, what do I fear? love? trust?



Matthew 6:20-21, 32b-33

20 But store up for yourselves treasures in
heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys,
and where thieves do not break in or steal;
21 for where your treasure is, there your heart
will be also.
32b your heavenly Father knows that you need
[food, drink, and clothing].
33 But seek first His kingdom and His
righteousness, and all these things will
be added to you.



HOW TO RESPOND TO WISDOM'S APPEALS

- Practical steps:
  - What response is disproportionate to the urgency?
  - What habits reflect mistrust in God?
  - Act on your sense of conviction from God
  - If it is a big decision, seek scriptural counsel
  - Repent (turn back) from anything God warns about
  - Surrender any part of the heart or actions that comes from a lack of faith, that can't be done in faith



Romans 8:26-28

26 In the same way the Spirit also helps our
weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we
should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes
for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He
who searches the hearts knows what the mind of
the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints
according to the will of God. 28 And we know
that God causes all things to work together for
good to those who love God, to those who are called
according to His purpose.



Romans 8:31-32

31 What then shall we say to these things? If
God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not
spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all,
how will He not also with Him freely give us all
things? . . . 38 For I am convinced that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things
present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor
height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will
be able to separate us from the love of God, which
is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

