



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 8:22-31

22 "The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works,
before his deeds of old;

23 I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning,
when the world came to be.

24 When there were no watery depths, I was given
birth, when there were no springs overflowing with
water;

25 before the mountains were settled in place, before
the hills, I was given birth,

26 before he made the world or its fields or any of the
dust of the earth.

27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when
he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep,

28 when he established the clouds above and fixed
securely the fountains of the deep,

29 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.

30 Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with
delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence,

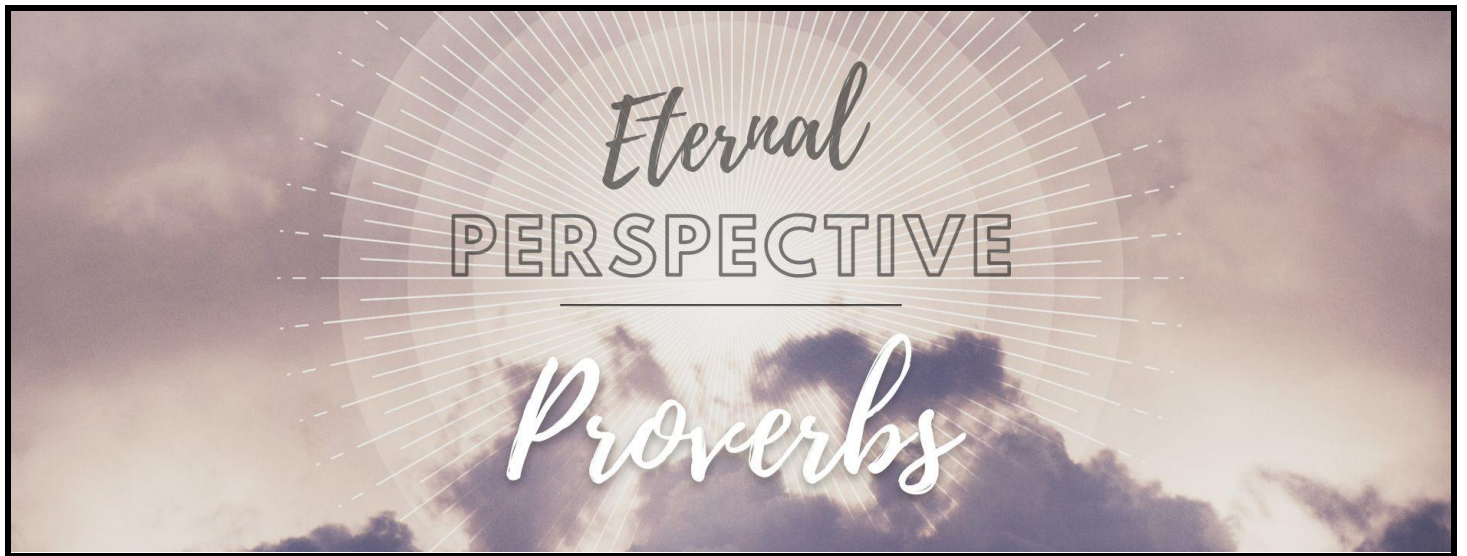
31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in
mankind.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 8:22-31

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In re:generation on Monday nights, we will often recite the Serenity Prayer and the first verse says, "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." This led me to the question, what is wisdom? John MacArthur's commentary says that wisdom includes knowledge, understanding, instruction, discretion, and obedience built on the fear of the Lord and the Word of God, but that still doesn't answer the question. Throughout the Bible we are told to seek wisdom, more specifically God's wisdom (James 3:17 "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere").

In Proverbs 8, Solomon shows us the personification of wisdom, and through this he gives us the answer to the question. Wisdom is one of the amazing and immutable characteristics of our Creator. Since before the beginning of



his work, there was wisdom. While He worked, there was wisdom. In every hill, mountain, field, and ocean there is His wisdom. Exemplified in the design, the efficiency of the systems, the complexity, the intricate detail there is His wisdom. Jeremiah 10:12 says, "It is He who made the earth by his power, who established the world by His wisdom, and by His understanding stretched out the heavens."

All around us every day we are surrounded by the wise design of God. The earth on which we tread, the bodies we inhabit, the very essence that is our souls is thanks to the wisdom of God. I often stand in awe at the sheer magnitude and beauty of it all. Then I think about the fact that the Creator God loves me so much that He wrote a love letter to me and sent the Holy Spirit to interpret it, all so I could know Him better, and so He could impart just a bit of that wisdom. The closer we grow in our relationship with the Father, through study and prayer, the greater our understanding of Him becomes. It is this relationship that bears the fruit of true serenity and courage through the wisdom of God.

Questions:

1. What do you do to seek the wisdom of God?
2. Do you ask God for his wisdom?
3. What holds you back from the pursuit of wisdom?