

Proverbs Study Week 14

Proverbs 9:1-12

Join us this week as we begin Proverbs 9 and continue to grow in wisdom. Did you know that the fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom? What does it mean to fear the Lord?

*****Read Proverbs 9:1-12*****

Before we begin, there is something we need to point out in verse one. The writer states wisdom has built her house and has set up it's seven pillars. Some have interpreted this as meaning there are seven pillars of wisdom, which is not accurate. To be clear, this verse does not state there are seven pillars of wisdom. Throughout the Bible, the number seven represents perfection and completeness. What this verse poetically symbolizes is wisdom lacks nothing, it is perfect and complete.

Are you ready to pursue Godly wisdom?

- **In chapter 9, wisdom and folly are portrayed as rival young women. How does it help us grasp the concept of wisdom by portraying wisdom as people? How does wisdom bring us satisfaction that will last forever? How does folly bring us heartache?**

- With Proverbs 9:1-6 in mind, read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - 1 Corinthians 3:9-10
 - Ephesians 2:20-22
 - 1 Peter 2:5
 - Proverbs 24:3
 - The great banquet talked about Proverbs 9:2 has some interesting parallels to the banquet Jesus described in Luke 14, Read the following passages.
 - Luke 14:15-24
 - Many people may intend to go to the banquet, but many never make it. We get busy, distracted, sidetracked, or deem other things more important at the time. Do not let anything become more important than your pursuit of God's wisdom!

- Matthew 22:3-4
- Luke 14:16-17
- Psalm 68:11
- John 6:27
- Isaiah 55:1
- Ezekiel 37:24
- Ezekiel 11:20

*****Read Proverbs 9:7-13*****

There seems to be two types of people, the wise and mockers. The way to know which of these two you are, is by the way you respond to criticism. The mocker when critiqued will get angry, sarcastic or be quick to lash out at the person in front of them. One of the most important things we can do is learn to listen to the critiques of others. Learn from your critics because this is the path to wisdom. Wisdom begins with knowing God. He created everything, so why wouldn't He have insight into everything? To truly know God is not just to know facts about Him. To know Him means to fear him, stand in awe of Him and have a relationship with Him. Get to know Him better and better each day!

- **How do you become more wise? Are you a mocker or a wise person? What does it mean to be a mocker? How do you respond to criticism?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - James 1:5
 - 2 Peter 1:2-4
 - Job 5:17
 - Isaiah 36:21
 - Matthew 7:6
 - Psalm 141:5
 - Job 28:28
 - Psalm 111:10
 - In verses 11-12, there seems to be a protective quality of wisdom. Wisdom keeps us from making decisions that may affect the quality and length of our lives. You have probably heard the old adage, you make your own bed, well this speaks to us having to live with the consequences of the decisions we make. If you scorn wisdom, if you turn from wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.
 - Deuteronomy 11:21
 - Galatians 6:5

- Job 22:2
- Job 35:7
- Proverbs 19:29