

June 27

Scriptures: Read Proverbs 7 & 8

Key Verse: “For wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.” (Proverbs 8:11)

Overview

Once again, Solomon stresses the importance of his student heeding his instructions, so that he may realize the dangers of adultery and fornication and thus stay far away from the seductress, that he may have life and not death. It is just as important today that the Lord’s Word be treasured and guarded within our hearts as one would guard the most precious and important part of the eye — the pupil. That is the part of the eye that lets in the light, and if it is harmed, the person will live in darkness. Solomon wants his student to feel inseparable with wisdom and understanding, as though they were his nearest relatives with whom he had a close and personal relationship and upon whom he could depend for help in time of need (7:4).

With graphic details, Solomon tells the dramatic story of the young man who, lacking understanding, fell prey to the loud and rebellious woman who seduced him. He was foolish to be out wandering the streets at night and passing by “her corner”. A servant of the Lord must keep far from any appearance of evil and must keep busy in the work of the Lord so that he might not have the idle time to get lured into sinful snares. The evil woman caught the young man in her trap when he got too close. He was quick to yield to the temptation. His sin, a temporal pleasure, would bring severe and lasting consequences, namely death (James 1:14-16). Truly he followed her like an ox to the slaughter (7:22)

The depth of sin and hypocrisy in the wicked woman is revealed by her invitation for him to come into her home on a religious pretext: to eat of the peace offering with her, since her husband was away and she was ceremonially clean. She used this as an opportunity to fulfill her lustful desires (cf. Lev. 7:11,19-20). She may have been ceremonially clean, but inwardly she was filthy and defiled, and she brought defilement upon the young man as well. Although only a woman, she had caused the destruction of many strong and great men (7:26). This strong warning that Solomon gave centuries ago is just as relevant today. It teaches us that no matter how great or small we think we are, we all need the wisdom and understanding of God to withstand temptation. “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:12).

Chapter eight is a poem wherein wisdom is again personified. To properly understand this chapter, we must see Jesus Christ as the wisdom who speaks out to the people. Jesus referred to Himself, as did the Apostle Paul, as “the wisdom of God” (Luke 11:49; I Cor. 1:24). The wonderful attributes of wisdom as seen here are those of Jesus the Messiah (Isa. 11:2). We also learn here of wisdom’s role in creation, and we know that Jesus Christ was with God in creation. He was that wisdom that was with God from the beginning and that was established from everlasting (8:22-23; Col. 1:15-18; John 1-3).

Unlike the seductive voice in the darkness, wisdom's voice speaks out in the daylight at public places to all who would listen, for the Lord does not want any to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). He wants people to diligently seek Him, ask for wisdom, and receive it (James 1:5; Luke 11:9-13). Wisdom speaks true, pure, and excellent things that can be understood by all those who love her (Matt. 13:16, 23). Nothing immoral, deceptive, or perverse can come from her mouth, for such wickedness is an abomination to her. Wisdom admonishes all people to receive her and desire her over and above material possessions, for nothing can compare with her (8:11). No amount of wealth can save a person, but wisdom can deliver a person from destruction.

The same attributes and blessings of wisdom are paralleled in Jesus and His relationship with us. He truly gives wonderful and generous rewards to those who have Him in their hearts. He gives honour and "enduring [spiritual] riches and righteousness" (8:18). He causes those who seek and love Him to inherit wealth: the meek and the righteous shall inherit the earth and "theirs is the kingdom of God" (Matt. 5:5, 10). He fills their treasures, giving their longing souls satisfaction (8:21). Wisdom's words are those of Jesus, "For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord", but those who reject and despise the "Wisdom of God" will destroy themselves (8:36; 1 John 5:12; 1 Cor. 1:24).

We, as Christian, should long to have our hearts filled with Jesus and the divine wisdom, understanding, knowledge, discernment, and integrity that is available to us who love and seek Him, that we may bear the good fruits of wisdom (8:19; see Eph. 1:17; Col. 1:9-10; James 3:17).

Prayer

Dear Father, You have revealed true and perfect wisdom in the person of Your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we desire Him more than anything else, for material possessions are so temporary, but our relationship with Jesus is eternal.