

**Wisdom is like a time machine that is given to us by the Lord.** We can see the future and know the end of things before they happen by learning and heeding the word of God.

- Verses 1-7, tell of the benefits and blessings of wisdom.
- Verses 8-19, tell us of the result of folly and foolishness.

**How Wisdom Can Act Like a Time Machine:**

1. **Wisdom's Rewards:** V8-9, a garland (crown) for the head and a necklace around the neck. Honor comes from wisdom. It is not for everyone because you must work and wait for it. The reward of wisdom comes from listening to their parents and their discipline. Although not in every case, parents are a source of great blessing to their children by the wisdom they share and teach.
  - Am I prepared to pursue wisdom and seek it? Proverbs chapters 1-9 tell us why we want wisdom.
2. **Wisdom's Experience:** V10-14, it is obvious that foolishness will ruin your life. V10, don't be enticed by greed and follow the gang.
  - What will they say to entice you? V11, "let us," everyone is doing it and it will be easy to ambush and take it from others. V12, we will get away with it and no one will ever find out (swallow them whole). V11-12, they will be your family (us- 4X). V13-14, we will get all kinds of wealth and share it together equally.
  - Solomon provides a taste of temptation in a small dose so the young man or woman can hear what it sounds like before they hear it from others. V15-16, Solomon gives the end of what will happen to them on that path – evil and bloodshed. Wisdom has shown the results of a foolish life.
3. **Wisdom's Vision:** V15-19, wisdom can understand the end of a foolish life. V16, their ways are evil and they seek to murder. V17-18, wisdom allows you to see the trap that the foolish have set for themselves. Even a bird can see the trap they have set, it is obvious. V14, will the one who steals from others be honest enough to share with you? V19, those who are greedy for gain will lose their lives in the pursuit of greed.
  - Wisdom gives understanding and guidance for those who hear it and obey, V5.
4. **Wisdom's Seriousness:** V8-9, joy and reward are a part of the blessing of wisdom. Some results are terrifying. V18, we can fall into our own trap. V20-22, it shouts in the streets and squares. It is everywhere around us; we ignore it at our own peril.
  - a. Wisdom is to be pursued at the crossroads of life: it is in the squares and streets as we go. Consider it as we make plans and are getting started in life.
  - b. Wisdom is easy to hear and hard to want: V22, "will you love simplicity?" Will you continue to scoff and hate knowledge? Wisdom is everywhere, but will the simple stop and ask for help?
  - c. Wisdom is still available in my folly: V22, wisdom is still calling out to the simple ones. V23, if they will humble themselves, wisdom will make itself known, it will answer and help. It will be poured out in abundance.
    - God's word fills the humble, revealing Christ and regenerating the heart to hear His word. God by His doing, in Christ Jesus, became to us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, 1 Cor. 1:30.
  - d. Wisdom will **not** be available for you for long: V32, death and destruction come to those who turn away from wisdom and wait too long to heed its voice. V26, wisdom will laugh and mock when dread and disaster come.
    - Proverbs 27:7, "A satisfied soul will trample the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul any bitter thing is sweet."
      - It is imperative for the believer that God's wisdom rule us so we might desire the things He has prepared for us and not seek for things in the world to satisfy us.
      - A satisfied soul, one content with what God has given and provided, will trample even the things that look sweet and seem good.

### **Further Discussion and Application**

What are 5 things that you would tell a younger man or woman starting out in life to do? What reason would you give them for why they should listen to you? Due to failures in life, what are some of the most important lessons that you have gained from seeking the Lord (in the form of wise council or study) after a failure and before the next major decision?

What decisions in life need the most thought and advice? Who are best to provide that advice? How will the word of God help you make those decisions? Why is giving time for study and reflection a wise choice before making decisions? How can a mentor help you or someone gain wisdom?

How many decisions in life must be made in an instant? What would be a wise way to respond to questions or requests from others when we haven't spent time and energy to decide a wise course of action? How might study of Scripture be a way of searching out what to do next? Should we ever feel pressured to make a decision hastily? Which decisions should be made quickly and which ones with time?

Solomon speaks of wisdom as a woman in the street and square declaring herself. Why is it important to understand how blinded we can be to our lusts and passions? Why does James tell us that sin occurs when we are tempted and drawn away by our own lusts and desires (James 1:13-14)? James 4:8 gives the antidote to foolishness. What must be done in the heart of one who seeks wisdom?