

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Jan 28, 2024 | “Showdown: Lady Wisdom vs. Lady Folly” | **Proverbs 9:1–18**

1) Heed _____; Forsake _____ (9:1–18)

- a. Be _____ and stay _____ to Lady
Wisdom’s call (1–6)
- b. Be _____, stay _____, and invest in
those who are _____ (7–9)
- c. Be _____ and live a _____
life (10–12)
- d. Be on _____ and stay on _____
against folly (13–18)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 9:1–18. How does this chapter summarize much of what precedes in Proverbs 1–8? How is Lady Wisdom presented in the text? How about Lady Folly? If wisdom is so much better for us, why do so many people choose folly?

Why does Lady Wisdom tell us to “not reprove a scoffer?” What’s the difference between a scoffer and a simpleton? How is the scoffer contrasted with the “wise man” in 9:7–9?

How does Lady Wisdom direct us vertically? How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom? How does this wisdom differ from looking horizontally or internally for wisdom? What attributes of God make you fear him? How is God’s fearsomeness balanced by his demonstration of sacrificial love and humility? Why is it right for us to fear God?

GET PERSONAL

Describe what attentiveness to wisdom on a daily basis looks like in your life. What does inattentiveness to wisdom look like?

Has there ever been a period in your life where you could be described as a “scoffer”? What was that like? Were you unteachable? In what areas are you teachable and unteachable right now? What is God calling you to change as a response to this chapter of the Scriptures?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

In our NT era, the search for wisdom begins at the cross. But heeding wisdom is not a “once for all time affair.” When and where are you challenged to heed wisdom and forsake folly in your life? Are there times when folly is especially attractive to you? Are there times when heeding wisdom becomes onerous or especially difficult?

ADVANCED QUESTION

In Proverbs 9:1, Wisdom is described as having a house of seven pillars. What does that mean? Consult a commentary or a Study Bible to help you answer that question.

Read the following article entitled “What are the Seven Pillars of Wisdom?”:

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-are-the-seven-pillars-of-wisdom.html>

The author of this article connects the seven pillars of Proverbs 9:1 to the seven descriptions of “wisdom from above” in James 3:17. Evaluate the hermeneutical merit of this author’s interpretation. Is this legit? Should we connect James 3:17 to Proverbs 9:1? Why or why not?