

# Advantage, Wisdom

--10/12/08

Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Knowledge is sweet and pleasant, but wisdom enters the heart and dwells there giving us discretion which shall preserve us. Proverbs 2:10-22 treats us to a summary of three blessings of wisdom. First, it delivers us from the way of evil men. Second, it delivers us from the alluring woman who belongs to someone else. Third, it enables us to walk in the way of good men.

The way of evil men intends to ensnare. That is why wisdom is said to deliver us. They speak words that are coarse, vulgar, and irreverent. The intention is to draw their companions into the same crooked, perverse, form of manhood. They not only speak such things, but they also delight to say them. They have so bent their consciences that they have no remorse or shame in saying or doing perverse things and even enjoy with abandon laughing and taunting the inhibited ones who struggle to maintain their consciences clean. Wisdom allows one to see them as the pathetic ones that they are and not to be intimidated or pressured into following them into shameful ways.

The way of the wandering woman is also a snare. Wisdom delivers us from her also. She is the forbidden woman who does not belong to you but she nevertheless offers herself by her flattering words. She is forsaking the guide of her youth, that is, her husband. She is forgetting her covenant with God. She had given her vow calling God as witness and she profanes that vow as if God were nothing. A wise man can see that. He knows where her path leads. It is the path of death. One who does not fear God does not care how much she might damage you, your life, or the ones you care for. A wise man sees the inclination of her house. It is not level but rather tilted downward, downward toward the pit of death. All of her paths slide downward toward death. The reckless addiction to a thrill has a morbid look and very little glamor to the eyes of the wise.

The way of good men is the path of righteousness. No man is good if he is not righteous. The righteous are upright, men of integrity and resolute courage. It is they who shall dwell in the land. As in Psalm 37:9, 11, 22, 29, they shall inherit what God wants his children to have. They wait upon the Lord. They are meek and shall enjoy peace. They are blessed of God and righteous. To dwell in the land implies life, real living, the kind of living that God intended.

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