

Two Invitations

WISDOM

& FOLLY

*The Two Women of
Proverbs 9*



Proverbs 9:1-18 (NKJV)

¹ Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. ³ She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴ “Whoever *is* simple, let him turn in here!” *As for* him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵ “Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed.

Proverbs 9:1-18 (NKJV)

⁶ Forsake foolishness and live, And go in
the way of understanding. ⁷ “He who
corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself,
And he who rebukes a wicked *man only*
harms himself. ⁸ Do not correct a scoffer,
lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and
he will love you. ⁹ Give *instruction* to a wise
man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a
just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

Proverbs 9:1-18 (NKJV)

10 “The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding. 11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. 12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And *if* you scoff, you will bear *it* alone.” 13 A foolish woman is clamorous; *She* is simple, and knows nothing. 14 For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat *by* the highest places of the city,

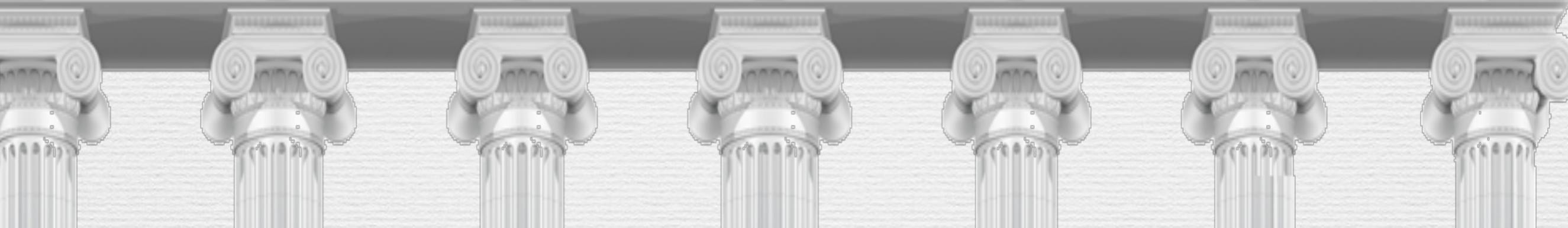
Proverbs 9:1-18 (NKJV)

15 To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: 16 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”; And *as for* him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 17 “Stolen water is sweet, And bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.” 18 But he does not know that the dead *are* there, *That* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

WISDOM



In contrast to the house of immorality described in chapter 7, wisdom has her own house (cf. 8:34).

A Mansion / Both Sound & Beautiful.

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

WISDOM

“The number seven here may have the symbolic significance of perfection which it often has in Scripture.”

Smith, J. E. (1996). *The wisdom literature and Psalms* (Pr 9:1–3).
Joplin, MO: College Press Pub. Co.

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

WISDOM

James 3:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

WISDOM

A table is spread (2)



A feast is prepared for all
who will answer the
invitation from wisdom.
Food and mixed wine are
on the furnished table

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

WISDOM

A table is spread (2)



- Good food & mixed wine are on the furnished table
- “mixed her wine.” Cf. 23:29, 30. *Wine was diluted with water as much as 1 to 8, to reduce its power to intoxicate. It was also mixed with spices for flavor (Song 8:20).*
- Unmixed wine is called strong drink (cf. 20:1; 31:6; Lev. 10:9; Is. 28:7; Luke 1:15).

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² She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

WISDOM

A table is spread (2)



- The language is figurative for God's wisdom being provided for all who will listen, learn & believe.
- **God's feast** – Cf. Isa. 25:6; 55:1,2; 31:12; Mat 22:1-10; Rev 19:9
- **God's wisdom is His Word** – Jer 15:16; Ez 3:1-3; Ps 19:10; 119:103; Job 23:12; 1 Cor 1:18-25;

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³ She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city,

WISDOM

An invitation is given (3-6)



- Maidens sent, published so all can hear
 - Jer. 25:4; Mat 22:3,4,8,9; 28:19; Mark 16:15,16; Acts 8:4; 1 Thes 1:8
- All are invited to the feast
 - “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” (*the one who lacks understanding*)
 - Isa 55:1-3; Mat 22:1-10; 11:28-30; Luke 14:16-23; John 10:44,45

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WISDOM

An invitation is given (3-6)



- All are invited to feed upon God's word where His wisdom can be found & we can find spiritual life — vs 4,5; 1 Pet 2:2; Heb 5:12; John 6:27
- Must "*forsake foolishness & go in the way of understanding*" — God's word, when heeded, will never leave us where we ARE! — Lk 13:3,5; Acts 17:30; etc.

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⁸ Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise *man*, and he will love you.

WISDOM

Reactions to reproof (7-9)

7 "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.⁸ Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;

- The true character of an individual is revealed when they are reproved —
 - Some (*scoffers & wicked*) are unteachable — 15:12; Ge. 19:8, 9; Is. 30:9-12; Jn 3:19-21; 8:44,45; 2 Ti 4:3,4
 - Some consider “*truth bearers*” their enemy - 1 Ki. 18:17; 21:20; Mat 7:6; Acts 13:45; Gal 4:16

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WISDOM

Reactions to reproof (7-9)

⁸ ... Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

- The true character of an individual is revealed when they are reproved —
 - Those who “*will to do His will*” will come to a knowledge of the truth - 1:5; 17:10; Ps 141:5; 119:97-104; John 7:17; 1 Pet 2:2
 - They are humble and thus teachable - Mat 5:3-7; James 1:21; 1 Thes 2:13

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10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,

WISDOM

Prerequisite To Wisdom (10)

10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- One will never gain true wisdom UNTIL & UNLESS one gains true reverence for GOD – 1:7; Ps 111:10
- The fear of the Lord IS wisdom - Job 28:28
- The whole duty of man – Eccl. 12:13
- Experiential knowledge of the “*All-Holy One*” gives TRUE understanding. – Mat. 11:27. Jno. 17:3. 1 Jno. 5:20.

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¹¹ For me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

WISDOM

The Incentive of Wisdom (9:11–12)

¹¹ For me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. ¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

- By wisdom one avoids violent and premature death experienced by those who choose the path of evil — (cf. 3:2, 16; 4:10; Deut 6:2).
- Jesus expanded and explained such promises with the concept of eternal life. — (John 3:36; 11:25; cf. 2 Cor 5:1-8; Heb 11:13-16).

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- Each individual has within him the power to choose wisdom – Deut 30:11-20; Jos 24:15; Rom 6:16,17
- One who is wise is wise for himself, i.e., to his own profit. Those who choose to mock godliness and virtue “shall bear it,” i.e., incur the penalty for their conduct (Ezek 18:20-32; Rm 2:6-10; 2 Co 5:10; Gal 6:7-9).

Two Invitations WISDOM & FOLLY

¹³ A foolish woman is clamorous; *She is* simple, and knows nothing.



The House of Folly (9:13–15)

¹³ A foolish woman is clamorous; *She is* simple, and knows nothing. ¹⁴ For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city,

• Folly, the rival of wisdom, is represented here as an adulteress — symbolizing a life of vice and evil. - (James 4:4)

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- **Three adjectives describe her:**
 - “clamorous” (*homiyah*), i.e., turbulent, and controlled by passion (cf. 7:11).
 - “thoughtless” (*petayyuth*) i.e., without safeguard or restraint – Ep 4:17; 1 Pet 1:18
 - “knows nothing” – Willful & persistent ignorance - ignoring the end of their conduct – Prov 14:9; Rm 1:20-32

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The House of Folly (9:13–15)

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- **She Makes Herself Visible:**
 - She sits at the door of her house. She does not send forth her maidens, nor stand in the streets and proclaim her mission. Folly has an easier task. — John 2:15-17
 - Second, folly's house is also highly visible. Folly mimics her rival (v. 3). — (*Sin often attempts to mimic righteousness — a cheap counterfeit*) — Heb 5:12-14

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The Invitation of Folly (9:16–17)

¹⁵ To call to those who pass by. Who go straight on their way: ¹⁶ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here"; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ¹⁷ "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

She Makes Her Voice Heard:

- Folly also calls out to the simple — (cf. v. 4)
God offers wisdom - folly offers more folly.
- Deception & immediate sensual gratification are appealing to those who do not know better & whose faith is NOT strong! — James 1:14,15; Rom 13:11-14
- The way of folly appears exciting & fulfilling - BUT - Prov 20:17; 7:18–20; 30:20

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The End of Folly (9:18)

¹⁸ But he does not know that the dead are there. That her guests are in the depths of hell.

- **Sin Brings Death:**
 - Though her invitation may seem attractive, the end result is not life (cf. v. 11); it is death (cf. 2:18; 5:5; 7:27; James 4:4).
 - Sin brings immediate spiritual death, and if not escaped, will result in eternal separation from God – (Isa 59:1,2; 2 Peter 3:9; Rom 7:24-8:2; 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; Rev 21:7,8)

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WISDOM OR **FOLLY**

- **Hear, believe & Obey Jesus**

- Hear the TRUTH – Jn 8:32; Rom 10:17
- Believe the TRUTH – Jn 3:16; 8:24
- REPENT from sin to God – Act 17:30
- CONFESS JESUS – Rom 10:9,10
- Be BAPTIZED – Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38
- PERSEVERE – Col 1:21-23; Rev 2:10



Do NOT
heed the
Lords call &
Continue in
sin.

The CHOICE is
YOURS

Two Invitations

WISDOM

& **FOLLY**

*Which One Will We
Accept? – Life or Death?*



PROVERBS 4:10-19 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Hear, my son, and receive my sayings,
And the years of your life will be many. ¹¹ I
have taught you in the way of wisdom; I
have led you in right paths. ¹² When you
walk, your steps will not be hindered, And
when you run, you will not stumble. ¹³
Take firm hold of instruction, do not let
go; Keep her, for she is your life. ¹⁴ Do not
enter the path of the wicked, And do not
walk in the way of evil.

PROVERBS 4:10-19 (NKJV)

15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. 17

For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.