

Proverbs Week #10 (1:22, 23)

Prov 1:22, 23 “How long, O naive ones, will you love being simple-minded? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing and fools hate knowledge? Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.”

Last week I told you about the woman the book of Proverbs calls Wisdom. Remember that she stood in the city gates and on the streets shouting her message above the noise of the people? Today we are going to discuss to whom she was shouting her message and what they can receive if they listen.

The verses above present three different types of people who need to listen to the call of Wisdom. Their foolish behavior is not all the same when considering them in relationship to God. The first one is the *peti* פְּתִי or naïve one. While this one is open to learning, the problem is that he wants to stay simple. As we listen to Wisdom we mature and become wise. We do not have to remain naïve. The second type of fool in the book of Proverbs is the scoffer. This one is proud and enjoys mocking God and His truth; they think it is fun! The Hebrew word *leits* לֵיט (scoffer) is found fourteen times in the book of Proverbs. Nine of these fourteen times the highlighted characteristic of the scoffer is his rejection of reproof or discipline. The final word for fool in our verse is the *ch’sil* כְּסִיל (fool) and this one is marked by their hatred for God’s wisdom. When Wisdom calls out in the streets, this hardened fool might express their hatred to God’s knowledge by becoming angry and even fighting back.

Wisdom cries out, “Turn to my reproof and I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.” Here we see the correct response of one who would be wise and the promise made by Wisdom. God will reveal Himself and entrust that person with His truth. Have you ever seen a small child who is being corrected for doing something wrong? They will turn their eyes and sometimes their bodies away from the one who is correcting them. Why do they do that? It is not easy to be told that we are doing something wrong. God and His wisdom are always the best thing for us, but when we are not doing something right it is not always easy to accept correction. Turning toward God is always a good idea. Let’s review the three types of people with this idea in mind.

It is our responsibility to learn today, so that we can be prepared for what God has in store for us tomorrow. I asked the question a few weeks ago, “How old do you have to be to listen and remember God’s truth?” The younger you start the sooner you will be able to receive what Wisdom has promised. I want to repeat the words of Wisdom and ask, “How long?” At a young age God is able to pour out His Spirit on you and teach you. In Luke 2:52 we read this about Yeshua as a young boy, “And Yeshua grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men.” I want to encourage you to trust in God and continue to learn from Him. Parents, help your children learn to be wise and help equip them not to be foolish. In the next lesson we will hear Wisdom’s warnings.