

# Proverbs Week #12 (1:30-33)

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*Proverbs 1:30-33*

*"They would not accept my counsel, they spurned all my reproof. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be satiated with their own devices. For the waywardness of the naïve will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."*

These verses contain the final part of the message that Wisdom cries in the streets. Our lesson continues this week with a restatement of the rejection Wisdom receives from those who are naïve and foolish. It warns of waywardness and complacency and ends with good news for those who will listen. Let's explore the themes of these few verses together and see how they can help us to be wise and know Wisdom.

We read together in Proverbs 1:25 that those who rejected Wisdom ignored all her advice and would not accept her rebuke. We have this statement repeated here but with a little different wording. Here Wisdom's advice is not accepted and her reproof is spurned. Those who spurn her reproof are saying that they find little value or worth in what she is saying and that in their eyes it is not important. They are happy the way they are, and it is because of this that Wisdom gives her warning.

Those who reject her will be left on their own to be filled according to their own wishes. The things that they crave are what they will get and this is not going to be a good thing for them. It reminds me of the story of Israel in the wilderness when the people craved meat and complained. God heard and did send them meat, but he also sent a plague. Much of God's dealing with Israel in the desert was to test them. He wanted to see if they would follow His instructions and ultimately to trust Him for what they needed. I think this is a big part of Wisdom's lesson in these verses.

Wisdom warns those who crave bad things. She doesn't say that they will be unhappy or feel bad. She declares that their waywardness will kill them and their complacency will destroy them. What does it mean to be wayward or complacent? God has a path for us to walk in life and He wants us to live lives that find favor in His sight. To be wise we must learn to listen to God and know what He wants us to do in our lives. I say that a lot! I will continue to say it because if we forget this lesson we will find ourselves wayward and complacent and be in grave danger.

The final message of Wisdom is good news to those who will listen. They will live securely and when troubles come in life they will be at ease. I don't think that Wisdom is promising a life that is stress-free or without any hardships. We grownups talk a lot about stress and I think you children understand that word even if you don't know exactly what it means. Life is not always easy. What I think Wisdom is proclaiming is that those who have learned from her will be able to navigate the hard times in life with a confidence that does not rely upon their own strength. I see in these final verses a foundational truth. To live securely requires a heart that will trust in God and be open to His teaching.

David was a man who faced hardships in his life. As he cried out to God in Psalm 17 he finished up his prayer with these words:

*"Rise up, O L-RD, confront them, bring them down; rescue me from the wicked by your sword. O L-RD, by your hand save me from such men, from men of this world whose reward is in this life. You still the hunger of those you cherish; their sons have plenty, and they store up wealth for their children. And I—in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness." Psalm 17:13-15*

David understood that wicked men would not reap God's true rewards. God desires to feed those He loves with good things, to provide for their families through multiple generations, and ultimately to allow those who are His to awake satisfied in seeing Him for who He really is.

Wisdom's positive message is one of security and ultimately of finding true peace in God. The themes she repeats and the questions I conclude with are, "Are we listening to her? Have we set our hearts to know her?"