

Proverbs Week #74 (8:7-9)

For my mouth will utter truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing crooked or perverted in them. They are all straightforward to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. Prov 8:7-9

In Psalm 33 we learned, “the word of the LORD is upright, and all His work is done in faithfulness.” (Psa 33:4) As I mentioned last week, this verse reminds us that **the character of God backs the words of God**. Wisdom continues to give us reasons for listening to the word She speaks.

The phrase in our verse “my mouth will utter truth” פִּי־אֶמֶת יְהוָה חִפִּי has the same verb that is found in Psa 1. In the first Psalm we read that the man who is blessed “delights in the Torah of the LORD and in His Torah he **meditates day and night**” יְהוָה יוֹמָם וְלַיְלָה (Psa 1:2). You might say that the man who is blessed is copying what Wisdom is doing. Just as God is true and there is no wickedness in his speech, so too if we are going to be wise we need to emulate what we learn from God. He is The Original and we should be reflections of Him.

What I’m about to say almost everyone here would agree with but it is worth emphasizing. The word of God is true. It is what we seek to study and do, to teach our children, and to understand as our source of wisdom. What we have learned about God and the Messiah is real history and the word of God is absolute truth. The Messiah teaches us that it is His truth that sets people free and it is His means to set us apart for His service. The Messiah prays for us and we know what His prayer for us is.

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.” John 17:14-17

This is an amazing truth! We are to be like the Messiah! If we are disciples of the Messiah, according to Him we are no longer “of this world.” If we are a part of the Messiah’s family we have been sent into the world to proclaim the same message that He was sent into the world to proclaim. When we think of being His disciples do we think that He is praying for us? Do we think that the way we live our lives can make a difference? Do we see the mission of our families, our marriages, and our individual lives as being rooted in the heavenlies with the Messiah? For those who have put their hope in the Messiah this is the very kind of life we should be living. For our part we need to cooperate with God and act like Him. We need to listen and repeat...listen and repeat. The things that God is saying are worthy to be heard.

Our verses from the Proverbs tell us that the utterances of Wisdom’s mouth are in righteousness and that there is nothing crooked or perverted in what She has to say. I think we should understand these concepts of speaking righteously or speaking with a crooked mouth in practical terms. As our children learn to speak we teach them what things they should say and should not say. As good parents we help them show respect and kindness to others in what they say as well as what they do. Brothers and sisters do not always say what is right. A family that is learning to serve God and walk according to wisdom will have a healthy respect for each member of the family. This respect is often displayed in how we speak to one another. Seeing speech as righteous or crooked should not be viewed as some sacred designation that is somehow separate from how we live our lives. Each breath we take is a gift from God and sacred.

Finally, our section ends with conditional statements. The ones who will find what Wisdom has to say are the ones who understand and find knowledge. If you find yourself or your family lacking wisdom continue to seek God and ask Him for wisdom. Wisdom is a skill as well as knowledge. May God grant us to know and understand His truth as we serve together as families.