Invitations of Wisdom and of Folly

PROVERBS 9:1-18
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Text:

Proverbs 9:1-18,

1. Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.
2. She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.
3. She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city,
4. “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says,
5. “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.
6. Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.”
7. Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.
8. Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.
9. Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.
10. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
11. For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.
12. If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.
13. Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing.
14. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city,
15. calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way,
16. “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says,
17. “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!”
18. But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead. (NIV)

Introduction:

I. Bland observed that Proverbs 9 is composed of three (3) different units viz.,

A. Verses 1-6, Wisdom issues an invitation to those who are simple and lack experience.

B. Verses 7-12, These verses echo the introduction found in Proverbs 1:1-7.

1. Proverbs 1:1-7, The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young— let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (NIV)

C. Verses 13-18, Folly issues an invitation which is the opposite of that issued by Wisdom.

II. This chapter, which concludes the first division of Proverbs, summarizes previous warnings under the figure of two women, Wisdom and Folly, each beckoning men to dine at their houses. (Coffman)
A. Clarke identifies Wisdom in this chapter as the same as the Wisdom of Chapter 8 where she was present in association with all the works of God in the natural world.

B. Clarke further identifies Folly in this chapter with the debauched and impudent woman of chapter 8.

C. Both Wisdom and Folly call for those who hear their invitations to follow their advice, Wisdom pointing to the high road that leads to life and Folly pointing to the low road that leads to destruction.


**Commentary:**

**Invitations of Wisdom and Folly**

Proverbs 9:1, *Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.* (NIV)

I. Wisdom has built her house;...

   A. Wisdom’s house is a mansion, the kind of dwelling Wisdom would build. (See Bland.)

II. she has hewn out its seven pillars.

   A. Wisdom’s mansion even has seven pillars, seven indicating a complete, perfect set. (See Bland.)

   B. “It may be assumed that a house with seven pillars was a magnificent dwelling,” Coffman wrote.
C. “Everything has been so constructed as to exhibit a sense of grandeur, stability, and durableness,” Clarke stated.

D. The Pulpit Commentary notes the special place given the number seven (7) in the Bible; for example:

1. Seven days of creation.

2. Seven churches of Asia Minor.

   a. Isaiah 11:2-3, The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; (NIV)

4. Seven branched candlestick.

Proverbs 9:2, She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. (NIV)

I. She has prepared (killed) her meat (beasts) and mixed (mingled) her wine;…

   A. In her mansion, Wisdom has exquisitely prepared a banquet of choice meat and wine for her guests.

1. Smith suggested that mixing wines with water made them “less fiery”, more palatable to drink. (Coffman agreed.)
   a. Drunkards did not dilute their wine, but Wisdom did!
2. The food actually represents the integrity, prudence, knowledge, and blessings offered by Wisdom.

B. This banquet is not a one time meal, but an on-going continuous feast to those who accept Wisdom’s invitation. (See Bland.)

II. She has also set her table.

A. Smith reminds us that tables of that era were actually mats.

1. Guests reclined on the ground, floor or around the mat on a low couch.

B. Wisdom sets her table in a most elegant manner!

1. Psalm 23:5, You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (NIV)

2. Isaiah 21:5, They set the tables, they spread the rugs, they eat, they drink! Get up, you officers, oil the shields! (NIV)

Proverbs 9:3, She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, (NIV)

I. She has sent out her maids and…

A. Those messengers/maids invited the guests.

1. Matthew 22:3, He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. (NIV)
B. It is now our duty to invite the world by the wisest means available to follow Christ.

II. she calls from the highest point of the city.

A. Wisdom herself called from the highest point of the city for those who hear her invitation to come to dinner.

B. She calls from the highest point of the city to be better heard by the most people.

1. Proverbs 8:2, At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; (NIV)

2. Matthew 10:27, What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. (NIV)

C. This is a masked contrast with the secret, clandestine, under-the-cover-of-darkness of Folly’s activities as described in chapter 8. (See Coffman.)

Proverbs 9:4, “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, (NIV)

I. “Let all who are simple come in here!” she says to those who lack judgment.

A. Those simple people who lack judgment are urged to come to Wisdom’s house so they can learn and acquire judgment skills and change their ways of living.

1. Proverbs 7:7, I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who had no sense. (NIV)
2. Matthew 18:14, In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish. (NIV)

3. I Corinthians 1:21, 26, For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. (NIV)

B. Bland wrote, “This banquet is an invitation to learning. Wisdom is training toward life and the development of moral character.”

C. Coffman defined the simple as all men who are in that phase of life in which vital and permanent choices are to be made.

1. No reference is made here, Coffman stated, to the mentally disabled.

2. Often crucial decisions which affect the rest of our lives (choice of husband, wife, educational preparation, vocation, etc.) are made during a person’s youth when wisdom may not have been yet fully maturely developed.

   a. Clarke includes the young as being among the simple.

Proverbs 9:5, “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed. (NIV)

I. “Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.
A. This meal provided the nourishment, the understanding that the simple needed.

1. Those accepting Wisdom’s invitation were to eat and drink deeply of Wisdom’s offerings. (See Clarke.)

B. The teachable only would accept Wisdom’s invitation. (Smith)

1. Isaiah 55:1, “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. (NIV)

C. Coffman reminds us that Christ, “the Wisdom of God,” also invites us to, “Eat of this bread... and drink of this cup.”

1. John 6:27, Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” (NIV)

2. Matthew 26:26, While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” (NIV)

3. I Corinthians 1:24, 30, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (NIV)

4. Revelation 22:17, The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the
one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life. (NIV)

D. The prevailing opinion among Commentaries appears to be that the wine Wisdom served was, as was customary, mixed with water.

1. On some occasions, Clarke adds, wines of various kinds were mixed together along with certain spices such as honey, myrrh, etc. to enhance taste.

Proverbs 9:6, Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.” (NIV)

I. Leave your simple (foolish) ways and you will live;…

A. To enter Wisdom’s house, the simple must leave their foolish ways. (Smith)

B. Lady Wisdom calls us to the way leading to life.

C. The simple can choose to leave their foolish ways.

1. Only by leaving their foolish ways can they live.

II. walk in the way of understanding.”

A. The simple were not only required to forsake their foolish ways, but also were required to walk according to the rules of knowledge and prudence.

Note: Verses 7-10 form a parenthesis, The Pulpit Commentary states, showing why Wisdom addresses only the simple and foolish.
Proverbs 9:7, Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse. (NIV)

I. “Whoever corrects a mocker (scorner) invites insult (shame);…

A. The “mocker” is the deliberate unrepentant person.

1. They will insult all who seek to correct them.

2. Proverbs 1:22, “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? (NIV)

3. Proverbs 3:34, He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed. (NIV)

4. Matthew 7:6, “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces. (NIV)

B. Not everyone can be taught wisdom (and not everyone can be converted to Christ.)

1. There is not much hope for some of the wicked mockers and scoundrels, but we must try in love to invite them to Christ, the Wisdom of God.

   a. Proverbs 27:22, Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding them like grain with a pestle, you will not remove their folly from them. (NIV)

   b. Proverbs 29:1, Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy. (NIV)
c. Matthew 24:9, “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. (NIV)

II. whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.”

A. These by their own chosen course of action exclude themselves from Wisdom’s feasts.

B. The one who rebukes a wicked man will be abused by the wicked man he is trying to help.

C. Smith wrote, “Evil men regard the reprover as a personal enemy and heap upon him abusive words and deeds.”

   1. The person who rebukes the wicked sinner brings disgrace on himself.

D. It is dangerous to rebuke the wicked, mocking scoundrels as Christian martyrs can tell us.

   1. However, virtuous servants of God must continue to reprove transgressors. (The Pulpit Commentary)

   2. “Prudence, caution, and tact are needed in dealing with these characters,” The Pulpit Commentary states.

   3. Evil men regard the reprover as a personal enemy, The Pulpit Commentary concurs.

Proverbs 9:8, Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you. (NIV)

I. Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you;…
A. Smith defines “scorners” as those who are consciously and willfully perverse.

1. “Reproof is wasted on scorners,” Smith stated.

2. The Pulpit Commentary states, “There are times when reproof only hardens and exasperates.”

II. rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

A. In sharp contrast with the mockers and scorners is the wise man who appreciates and profits by correction.

B. Scriptures:

1. Psalm 141:5, Let a righteous man strike me—that is a kindness; let him rebuke me—that is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it, for my prayer will still be against the deeds of evildoers. (NIV)

2. Proverbs 19:25, Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke the discerning, and they will gain knowledge. (NIV)

3. Proverbs 25:12, Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is the rebuke of a wise judge to a listening ear. (NIV)

4. Proverbs 27:6, Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses. (NIV)

Proverbs 9:9, Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning. (NIV)
I. Instruct a wise man and he will be wise still;…

A. The wise man takes to heart each instruction and profits by all sound counsel.

1. Matthew 13:12, Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. (NIV)

2. Matthew 25:29, For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. (NIV)

3. Proverbs 1:5, let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance— (NIV)

B. Clarke wrote that a wise man extracts wisdom from every place it is available just as a bee extracts honey’s ingredients from every flower.

II. teach a righteous (just) man and he will add to his learning.

A. The humble and willing to learn add to their knowledge. (See Smith.)

1. Matthew 18:3-4, And he said: “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (NIV)

B. Wisdom has both a moral and an intellectual quality. (The Pulpit Commentary)
Proverbs 9:10, The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. (NIV)

I. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,…

A. Step one in the search for knowledge is the fear of the Lord!

1. Proverbs 1:7, The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (NIV)

II. and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

A. God Almighty is the ultimate absolutely pre-eminently Holy One and with him understanding begins.

1. Isaiah 6:3, And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” (NIV)

Proverbs 9:11, For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life. (NIV)

I. “For through wisdom your days will be many,” and years will be added to your life.

A. On the average, the wise live longer than the foolish!

1. Wisdom, the fear of the Lord, leads a person away from violent and reckless lifestyles.

a. Proverbs 10:27, The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. (NIV)
b. Proverbs 3:4, Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. (NIV)

c. Proverbs 14:27, The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a person from the snares of death. (NIV)

d. Proverbs 4:10, Listen, my son, accept what I say, and the years of your life will be many. (NIV)

2. Foolishness leads into unhealthy and often dangerous activities.

3. Smith advised us that those who wisely embrace Christ have already passed from death to life.

Proverbs 9:12, If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer. (NIV)

I. “If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you,…”

A. Those who walk in the paths of wisdom will be rewarded by following her instructions.

B. “The wise and the righteous can also continue to grow in wisdom and understanding,” Bland wrote.

1. Proverbs 1:5, 7, let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (NIV)

C. Wisdom brings blessings to others whom the wise person may influence but wisdom especially brings blessings to the person who possesses it. (Clarke)

II. “if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.”

A. Those who walk in the paths of foolish mockery will personally suffer because of their lack of wisdom.

1. Clarke reminded us that the vengeance of an offended God will descend on the foolish mocker.

2. Numbers 9:13, But if anyone who is ceremonially clean and not on a journey fails to celebrate the Passover, they must be cut off from their people for not presenting the LORD’s offering at the appointed time. They will bear the consequences of their sin. (NIV)

3. Galatians 6:5, for each one should carry their own load. (NIV)

B. “The simple can learn, but only if such a one is willing to give up simplicity and be open to instruction,” Bland wrote.

1. Proverbs 9:6, Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight.” (NIV)

Note: In this verse, individual responsibility for personal actions and their consequences is taught. (See Coffman.)
Folly’s Invitation

Proverbs 9:13, Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing. (NIV)

I. The woman Folly (the fool; woman) is loud: she is undisciplined and without knowledge.

A The woman Folly, the opposite of Lady Wisdom, is riotous turbulent, controlled by passion, undisciplined, without restraint, without moral fiber with which to resist any temptation, Smith wrote. She also knows nothing!


2. “Willful and persistent ignorance accompanies folly.” (Smith)

   a. She knows nothing of whom she should know. (The Pulpit Comment)

3. Boisterous, restless, ignorant, easily detached, short attention span, unclear about purpose, inactive (Bland) describe the very unadmirable person.

4. Folly knows no shame.

5. Proverbs 7:11, (She is unruly and defiant, her feet never stay at home;

Proverbs 9:14, She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, (NIV)
I. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city, …

A. Folly appeals to the masses seeking attention.

1. Our experiences verify this fact: folly is everywhere.

2. Folly tries her best to influence as many as possible to follow her lifestyle.

B. The Pulpit Commentary tells us, “Vice has an easier task. (than Lady Wisdom); all she has to do is to sit and beckon and use a few seductive words.”

Proverbs 9:15, calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way, (NIV)

I. calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way,…

A. Folly tries to turn those steadfastly walking in the paths of truth and right aside to foolishness.

B. “As they walk in the path of right and duty, she tries to turn them aside.” (The Pulpit Commentary.)

1. The woman Folly represents any and all people who try to turn the righteous and faithful from the “straight way.”

Proverbs 9:16, “Let all who are simple come to my house!” To those who have no sense she says, (NIV)

I. “Let all who are simple come in here!” she says to those who lack judgment.”
A. Folly’s house is not comparable to wisdom’s mansion, but those who are simple and lack judgment are influenced by Folly nonetheless.

1. The wise and prudent are not tempted to follow Folly’s foolish ways.

B. Folly calls out to the simple to stay simple, but to enjoy it more.

1. That is like the devil’s telling sinners to keep on sinning, but to enjoy it more.

2. Folly appeals to ignorant fools! (See Clarke.)

   a. Don’t pay any attention to Folly!

   b. De Foe via Clarke reminds us, “Wherever God erects a house of prayer, the Devil surely builds a chapel there. And it is found upon examination, that the latter has the larger congregation.

II. Folly uses half-truths, misrepresentations, allurements of whatever kind to entice people to follow her ways.

A. Even false teachers proclaim some truth, The Pulpit Commentary reminds its readers.

B. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.
Proverbs 9:17, “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!” (NIV)

I. “Stolen water is sweet, food eaten in secret is delicious!”

A. Smith noted that this is Folly’s figurative way of referring to forbidden sexual relationships, to secret adulterous affairs.

1. It’s appeal is in partaking of what is forbidden, stolen, unlawful.

B. Smith further observed that while Lady Wisdom served meat and wine, woman Folly offers her guests only stolen water and bread that had to be eaten in secret… stolen bread and water! What a deal!

1. “The life of wisdom is rich and satisfying; that of folly is beggarly,” Smith stated.

2. Wisdom was industrious and prepared a wonderful meal.

3. Folly is lazy and serves only stolen bread and water.

4. What a contrast!

C. The lure of the forbidden…

1. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

2. Stolen bread and water.

3. Proverbs 1:8-19, Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck. My son, if sinful men entice
you, do not give in to them. If they say, “Come along with us; let’s lie in wait for innocent blood, let’s ambush some harmless soul; let’s swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; cast lots with us; we will all share the loot”— my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves! Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.

D. “Sin, due to the depravity of man, is made more attractive by the very fact of its being prohibited… and this is the one great proof of the inherent corruption of human nature,” Coffman emphatically wrote.

Proverbs 9:18, But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead. (NIV)

I. But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

A. The “stolen water” and “secret bread” carry a very high price indeed!

B. Folly’s house is the gate to Sheol. (Smith)

1. Mark 9:44, 46, 48, where “their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”
2. Proverbs 2:18-19, Surely her house leads down to death and her paths to the spirits of the dead. None who go to her return or attain the paths of life.

C. Those who follow Folly are hell bent and don’t even realize it!

1. They’re having so much “fun” they are very surprised when the temperature suddenly goes up!

Conclusion:

I. Section I of Proverbs covers Chapters 1-9.

II. Section II consists of sentence literature and covers Chapter 10-22 which describe in more detail “the boundaries between the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked.” (Bland)

A. Beginning with Proverbs 10:1, the difference between Wisdom’s table and Folly’s table are clearly determined and contrasted. (See Bland.)

III. Coffman wrote, “This is one of the most impressive chapters in the Bible. It is the picture of the two women, Wisdom and Folly. The two give the contrast between rectitude and sexual debauchery. Both of them shout their messages from the highest places, inviting the simple over to ‘turn in hither.’ One of these is holy, pure, eternal, righteous, and the Great Benefactor of all who heed her cry. The other is unholy, shameless, wicked, and seductive bringing desolation and death to all who follow her, and whose guests are in the depths of the grave. And every man makes his choice of which he shall patronize.”

A. Choose you this day whom you will serve!
Questions

On

Proverbs 9:1-18

(Questions based on NIV text.)

1. Of what three units, according to Bland, is Proverbs 9 composed? ___
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. The first major division of Proverbs covers chapters ______ - _______. Chapter 9 summarizes ______________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. Both _________ and _________ call for those who hear their _________ to follow their _________ _________ pointing to the _________
   that _________ to _________ and _________ pointing to the _________ _________ that _________ to _________.

4. Describe Wisdom’s house. __________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
5. What is the significance of the seven (7) pillars of Wisdom’s house? How is the number seven (7) used in Scripture? ____________________________

6. What is a “mixed/mingled” wine? ____________________________

7. Describe dining tables and the seating arrangement customarily used in Palestine when Proverbs was written. ____________________________

8. Who are Wisdom’s “maids” today? From where, to what, and to whom do they issue their invitations? ____________________________

9. Contrast the invitations extended by Wisdom and Folly. ____________
10. Who are the *simple* referenced in chapter 9? Does the word *simple* always refer to the same kind of people? ______________

11. What did those who accepted Wisdom’s invitation receive? What did those who accepted Folly’s invitation receive? _______________________

12. What was required of those who accepted Wisdom’s invitation? ______________

13. What was required of those who accepted Folly’s invitation? ______________
14. What does it mean to “walk in the way of understanding?” How can we identify those who walk in the way of understanding? __________

15. Define *mocker* as used in verse 7. __________________________

16. Why preach the gospel to mockers? When is enough enough? ____

17. What can the person who rebukes wicked mockers and scoundrels expect? ________________________________
18. How does a wise man respond to rebukes? Does he respond this way to all rebukes good and bad? Explain your answer. __________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

19. The __________ of the __________ is the __________ of _________ and _________ of the __________ _______ is __________.

20. What does it mean to “fear the Lord?” Exactly what is the “knowledge of the Holy One” that produces “understanding?” … understanding of what? __________________________

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________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________


________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

22. How does Wisdom reward people who possess it? ______________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________
23. “_________ ___________ begins with the _______ of _________’s ___________ ___________ in the _______ _________ of ________.” (Bland)

24. What happens to mockers? Be specific. Give examples. (See verse 12.) ____________________________________________________________

25. Describe woman Folly as to behavior, personality. (See verse 13.) __

26. Why might it be said Folly’s task is easier than Wisdom’s task? How does this relate to the traits of human nature? _____________________

27. Why would Folly try to turn people astray who “go straight on their way?” _____________________
28. _______ calls out to the ________ to ________ _________ but to ________ it _________. That is like the _________’s telling ________ to keep on _________, but to ________ it _________.

29. ________ uses ________-________, _________ of whatever kind to ________ _________ to ________ her _________. Even _________ _________ _________ some _________. Even _________ _________ _________ _________ as an _________ of _________.

30. How can “stolen water” be said to be sweeter than water that is not stolen? What makes food “eaten in secret” particularly delicious? _____

31. What is referenced here by the terms “stolen water” and “delicious food?” ________
32. Section II of Proverbs covers chapter _________ - _________
which describe ____________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

33. Why did Coffman conclude that Proverbs 9 is one of the most impressive chapters in the Bible? ____________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

34. List characteristics of Wisdom. How can Wisdom be recognized? _______________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
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35. List characteristics of Folly. How can Folly be recognized? _______________________________________________________________________
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