

PROVERBS: Wisdom for Living

Study 11: Incomparable

READ Proverbs 8:1-36 and **LISTEN** to Pastor Craig Baxter's [sermon](#).

The Frenchman, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662), said, "All men seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end." Everyone orientates their lives towards whatever makes them happiest. The Bible teaches and our own experience confirms that the happiness we most want isn't found in anything on earth but is only found in Christ. The wisdom in Proverbs 8, which finds its complete fulfillment in Christ (1 Cor 1:24; Col 2:3), calls all people to listen to and take hold of her words, which have their origin before the beginning of creation and are right and never crooked, bringing true life and happiness.

Main lesson: The delightful splendor of Christ brings higher aims, richer rewards, and deeper joys than we could possibly contemplate

Questions:

1. If you can remember back to our first study, wisdom is rightly applying knowledge. This knowledge refers to God and the way He works in the universe. From vv. 1-5, in what way does God want us to find wisdom and how might this be seen today regarding God's pursuit of sinners?
2. A. From vv. 6-11, what is the key characteristic of God's wisdom? What words are used to describe this?

B. Give some examples in the culture and your own experience where God's wisdom (truth) conflicts with the world's belief system. Should we always follow God's wisdom no matter the cost?

3. Given Jesus is the fulfillment of wisdom who came to bear witness to the truth (John 18:37; 17:17), from v. 10-11, how does Jesus compare with other things? How do we know what is most valuable to us? See also Prov 16:16; Phil 3:7.
4. From vv. 12-13, what accompanies being wise and why would it be so difficult for sinful man to have wisdom?
5. How important is wisdom for leadership and why? See vv. 14-15; 2 Sam 23:2-4.
6. In light of 1 Tim 6:9, how should we understand vv. 18-21? Consider how the wealth and riches of wisdom are not bound up within this world order (v. 21). What "riches" are you living for?
7. Read vv. 22-31. How is God's wisdom imbedded into God's creation, what does God think of His creation, and why might these things be important to understand given the current assault on God's design for such things as gender and marriage etc?
8. Vv. 35-36 are fulfilled in 1 John 5:12. Explain why it is important to have Christ. Do you have Christ? Are you sure? If so, why?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: the Lord for the wisdom of His creation with all its order, majesty, and beauty

Thank: God for raising His voice that would cause you to turn to Him and find life

Pray: that you would walk daily in the fear of God and love purity and hate evil