In the preceding chapters Solomon placed much emphasis upon the importance of pursuing "wisdom" and listening to the words and instruction of "wisdom". But in this chapter "wisdom" is pictured as alive and calling to men and women to come and learn the great things of God. In this chapter the "wisdom" that we are to make an object of pursuit is personified. WISDOM IS ALIVE! It lives eternally in the Person of the Son of God [I Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:5].

I. THE CALL OF WISDOM [verses 1-9]
The chapter opens with two rhetorical questions, “Doth not wisdom cry?” The word “cry” means “to call out loudly” and conveys the idea of proclaiming, publishing, and preaching! WISDOM HAS SOMETHING TO SAY! The second question, “and understanding put forth her voice?” Putting forth the voice signifies “the publication of godly advice” “Wisdom” and “understanding” speak to instruct and to direct. It is of the grace of God that “wisdom” and “understanding” have a voice, and that such speaks to man!

1. The Places Where Wisdom And Understanding Speaks [verses 2-3].
Five places are mentioned:

❖ “high places” The call is made where it can be heard.
❖ “by the way in the places of the paths” This has reference to where more ways than one met, the busy intersections, where people travel.
❖ “gates” This has reference to both the “gates” of the temple, and the “gates” of the city where justice was administered.
❖ “at the entry of the city” “Wisdom” and “understanding” would meet and speak with the people coming from the country to conduct business.
❖ “at the coming in at the doors” This has reference to the temple, the city, and to private houses, and reveals that the instruction and direction of “wisdom” is a public message.

2. The Call Of Wisdom Goes Out To All Classes Of People [verses 4-5].
The words “men” “sons of man” “simple” and “fools” represent all classes and conditions of mankind.
3. The Instruction Of Wisdom [verses 6-10].

The message of “wisdom” is one that we are to “hear” [verse 6] and to “receive” [verse 10], and such was exhorted in the previous chapters. SPIRITUAL RECEPTIVITY IS A MUST [Matthew 13:23; Acts 2:41; 17:11; I Thessalonians 2:13].

➲ “for I will speak of excellent things” [verse 6]. The message, the instruction, and direction of “wisdom” is one of excellence! The word “excellent” means “that which is superior; that which surpasses” “Wisdom” declares God and His will and ways, and this excels and surpasses all other instruction and direction! THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “and the opening of my lips shall be right things” [verse 6]. “Wisdom” proclaims the ways of God, and is therefore always right! “Wisdom” reveals right doing [Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 6:18], a right spirit [Psalm 51:10], right paths [Proverbs 4:11], and the right way [II Peter 2:15]. The message, instruction, and direction of heavenly “wisdom” is always right THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “For my mouth shall speak truth” [verse 7]. The message, instruction, and direction of “wisdom” is truth THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “and wickedness is an abomination to my lips” [verse 7]. The message, instruction, and direction of “wisdom” does not lead to or towards wickedness! The message of “wisdom” is a message of holiness THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “All the words of my mouth are in righteousness” [verse 8]. The message, instruction, and direction of “wisdom” is always in accord with God’s law. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “there is nothing froward (disposed to disobedience) or perverse (corrupt, improper, incorrect) in them” [verse 8]. The message, instruction and direction of “wisdom” is free from sin, and in no way leads to sin. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!

➲ “They are all plain (obvious, and clear) to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge” [verse 9]. The message, instruction, and direction of “wisdom” is not one of obscurity, nor is it difficult to understand. THEREFORE HEAR AND RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF WISDOM!
II. THE VALUE OF WISDOM [verses 10-11]

1. Wisdom's Instruction Is Better And More Beneficial Than The Receiving Of Silver [verse 10].

2. The Knowledge That Is The Result Of Wisdom's Instruction Is Better Than The Finest Gold [verse 10].


III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF WISDOM [verses 12-21].

I. Wisdom Is Prudent [verse 12].

➲ “I wisdom dwell with prudence” Here, “wisdom” speaks in her own person, and says “I wisdom inhabit prudence” “Prudence” is “the right ordering of things, it is showing care and thought” and is an attribute of Christ.

➲ “and find out knowledge of witty inventions” Christ (the wisdom of God) is omniscient, and knows all that is in the hearts of men, and all their evil designs.

II. Wisdom Is Holy [verse 13].

“Wisdom” dwells with “prudence” but cannot dwell with evil.

➲ “The fear (reverence) of the LORD (which is the beginning of wisdom) is to hate” “Wisdom” will cause one to loathe, detest, and reject that which is sinful.

➲ “evil” This has reference to that which is “morally reprehensible, sinful, and wicked” By nature men love “evil” but “wisdom” hates it! “Wisdom” will not lead toward that which is “evil”

➲ “pride” This is “inordinate self-esteem” “Wisdom” will not cause one to be proud, but instead will cause humility of spirit.

➲ “and arrogance” This is “a feeling of superiority” “Wisdom” will never cause one to feel superior to someone else. “Wisdom” will produce that which is spoken of in Philippians 2:3.

➲ “and the evil way” This is the “way of sinners” [Psalm 1:1], “the way of the ungodly” [Psalm 1:6], “the way of evil men” [Proverbs 4:14], “the way of transgressors” [Proverbs 13:15], and “the way of the heathen” The one who possesses “wisdom” or the one who is possessed of “wisdom” does not seek these ways.
“and the froward mouth, do I hate” The one who possesses “wisdom” does not speak that which is “perverse and disobedient” “Wisdom” in the heart produces holiness in speech.

3. Wisdom Has Great Influence Upon Public Affairs And The Well-Governing Of Society [verses 14-16]. “Wisdom” gives “counsel” [verse 14]. “Wisdom” is “understanding” [verse 14]. “Wisdom” is “strength” [verse 14]. “Wisdom” (Jesus Christ) is the source of all power and authority [verses 15-16]. Government in all its administrations; “kings” “princes” “nobles” and “judges” are all God-ordained according to His wisdom.

4. Wisdom Makes Happy The Children Of God [verses 17-21]. They shall be happy in the love of Christ, and in the success of their enquiries after Him [verses 17-18]. They shall be happy in possession, for what “wisdom” gives is of infinite value [verses 18-19]. They shall be happy in the leadings of “wisdom” [verse 20], and they will be happy in satisfaction [verse 21].

IV. WISDOM PERSONIFIED IN CHRIST [verses 22-36]

I. Wisdom’s Work Before Creation [verses 22-26].

2. Wisdom’s Work In Creation [verses 27-31].

These verses 22-31 reveal the eternity of Jesus Christ [Micah 5:2; John 8:58; 17:5, 24; Hebrews 7:3; Revelation 22:13], and the unity between Christ and the Father [John 10:30]. These verses reveal the creating power of Jesus Christ [I Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1-2]. Jesus Christ not only had being before the world, but He was present, not as a spectator, but as the Architect, when the world was made! The best exposition of Proverbs 8:22-31 is John 1:1-3.

3. Wisdom’s Plea And Promises [verses 32-36]. These verses are the application of “wisdom’s” discourse. There should be a hearing and an obeying the voice of “wisdom” [verses 32-33]. There is a promise for those who do hear and obey [verses 34-35]. The chapter closes with a warning to those who reject the ways of “wisdom”