

**I. Valuable - Proverbs 8:6-11**

1. The woman who would seduce him (**verse 6**)  
Rea                -we learn in these specific examples a broader principle - so... applicable in other areas (temptations are similar with one another)
  2. First, “listen” - I’m about to give you wisdom  
Rea                -does listening help... yes it does (or it would if we would “listen”)  
Rea                -one reason that people don’t want to come to church is that they have a “I got this” attitude - I don’t need anyone telling me what to do... until they crash
  3. I speak trustworthy things (**verse 7**)  
                      -I detest wickedness  
Rea                -strong language, but such strength is needed  
                      -Jesus said that the truth sets a person free (John 8:32)  
Rea                -if we “continue” in that truth (read it again - John 8:31-32)  
Rea                -does this imply that “wickedness” also “talks” to us?
  4. Words that are just and words that are “crooked” (**verse 8**)  
Rea                -once again our language is “keep us straight”  
                      -crooked or perverse  
Rea                -some words are “perverted” - check out Jude 7 - “perversion” of homosexuality
  5. Knowing and discerning (**verse 9**)  
                      -the upright have found His words to be discerning
  6. God’s wisdom (**verse 10**)  
                      -better than silver and gold  
Rea                -“choose” - obviously we have “free-will” to choose whatever we listen to - or value
  7. God’s wisdom  
                      -silver  
                      -gold  
                      -rubies (**verse 11**) - jewels
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Why are God’s jewels better?
  2. If we don’t tell our children, then they have no choice  
                      -here’s an example. Most of our children have not even heard the option of creation vs evolution. In school, and on TV, and even in church, they hear the teaching of evolution. They don’t have a choice if they don’t hear (clearly) the doctrine of creationism. No one is teaching it.
  3. Why wouldn’t a dad or mom warn their children about the “wickedness” of the world?

**II. Powerful - Proverbs 8:12-16**

1. Wisdom and “prudence” go together - along with “discretion” (**verse 12**)  
Rea                -not sure our kids/ church family knows what “wisdom” is  
                      -pretty sure our kids/ church family do not know what “prudence” is  
                      -almost certain our kids/ church have not heard nor used the word “discretion”
2. All these speak to the need for clarity in thought - in moral thought
3. To fear the Lord (**verse 13**) is to hate evil

- Rea            -is it okay to hate evil in our PC world?
4. Hates:
- evil
  - pride
  - arrogance
  - evil behavior
  - perverse speech
- Rea    5. All together these make up the world's wisdom
- compare the wisdom of God with the wisdom of the world in James 3
6. Rather than these - take my "counsel" and "judgment" (**verse 14**)
- Rea    7. Note the judgment is "sound" - solid, firm
- to build a firm/ solid life
  - defines what he has as "insight" ,... power - to enable
8. By such wisdom kings and princes reign - issue decrees (**verse 15**)
- decrees that are "just" - fair
- Rea            -raises a question, does our "justice" system depend on His wisdom?
9. **Verse 16** is a very similar restatement - "by me" (wisdom) princes govern
- Rea            -the rule of thumb is not what will get you elected or what will enable a preacher to keep his church, but what is wise and true
- leaders are effective in God's way
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Discuss how King David ruled and how his wisdom may have been different from others
  2. Where does one find such "wisdom" in our world today?
    - universities? -homes? -churches?
  3. He gives "counsel" but it is we who must make decisions - on how that counsel might apply - we still have to make decisions

### III. Obtainable - Proverbs 8:17-21

1. Love relationship between wisdom and those who seek her (**verse 17**)
 

Rea            -wisdom is good to those who are open to her

Rea            -means she will not force herself on anyone
2. Riches and honor are with me (**verse 18**)
  - wealth and prosperity
  - living with honor

Rea            -there is definitely a blessing that goes with following God's wisdom

Rea            -discuss this verse in light of the "health and wealth" (prosperity) doctrine that is so prevalent today
3. Better than gold and silver (**verse 19**)
  - "yield" speaks to harvest "yield"

Rea            -if it is better than silver, then perhaps verse 18 speaks of spiritual blessing, not just material wealth

Rea            -had you rather have wealth, or true honor and the companionship of God?

Rea            -no amount of money makes our sinful lifestyles "right" - some look at their prosperity and say, well God must be okay with it because He's blessing me

  - verse 19 proposes a choice between silver and the righteousness of verse 20

4. I walk in righteousness (**verse 20**)
- A. The pathway, walk
  - B. A way, not an event, or single action
  - C. This is the way we live, not just what we read about
- Rea                      -even in the Bible. Reading about God's way (in the Book) is not the same as walking in God's way
5. Her blessing is a rich inheritance (**verse 21**)
- in context the "riches" are righteousness and justice
  - treasuries are full
- Rea                      -to understand and apply these verses we must have a serious discussion about "true" success
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Verses 20-21 propose a choice - choice between riches and true riches
    - a decision is called for
  2. From whom did you receive "wisdom?"
  3. My opinion - the "wisdom literature" in the very center of our Bible is a vast resource that is largely untapped for wisdom to live by - why is that? Why don't we preach/teach from the wisdom of Ecclesiastes and Proverbs, and Song of Solomon?
  4. There are a lot of lame excuses for not passing on wisdom - one is that folks will not listen. There may be some truth in that but what if we said, - I'll not pass on the gospel because people will not listen. Is that okay?

Argile Smith - SS Lesson for 7-12-20