

The Book of Proverbs

Chapter 9

It's Decision Time 9:1—18

**‘Whoever is simple. let him turn in here!’
PROVERBS 9:4**

Proverbs 9

Proverbs 9 portrays two houses, one on either side of the road.

On one side, a house stands open, with an elegant lady named Wisdom inviting us in.

On the other side of the road, another house stands open, with a seductive lady named Folly inviting us in. Which way will we turn?

Two divergent choices.

The “right” answer is easy — in theory.

We are often told today that all we need is the right information.

If we will do the research on the Internet we will know what to do next.

In reality we are running back and forth between these two houses all the time.

Proverbs 9

The right choice is obvious, but we 'ourselves' are complicated.

We have histories.

We are not blank slates. We have scribbles and erasures and misspellings and doodlings written messily all over us.

We were born complicated.

We were born with a bias toward folly.

We were born guilty.

Theologians call it Original Sin, and it is real.

It is why our wills are unfree.

It is why even obvious choices can be difficult or impossible.

Our hearts are corrupt down beneath the level of choice.

So, just knowing the right thing to do is not always enough.

Proverbs 9

In the gospel God addresses the real us in a new way.

The word “son” (or “sons”) appears 22 times in **Proverbs 1-8**.

That word from God tells you who you are now in Christ.

That word of grace opens up your future.

It makes the wise choice not only possible but joyous.

“God is treating you as sons” (Heb 12:7), not as losers.

Christ is not ashamed to call us his brothers (**Heb 2:11**).

“And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, Jesus said, ‘Here are . . . my brothers!’ (Mat 12:49).

How can you define yourself as a reject when God has already defined you as a child, and therefore an heir of every promise he has ever made?

Proverbs 9

Proverbs 9 divides into three paragraphs of six verses each.

- The first and third paragraphs mirror one another like bookends, each one with an invitation telling us, “It’s an either/or decision. There is no third option.”
The invitation to wisdom stands open to everyone — with one exception.
Scoffers are excluded (**vv. 7, 12**).
- The middle paragraph in chapter 9 explains why God ignores scoffers.
But he welcomes both the wise and the simple.

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom’s Invitation

(Pro 9:1 ISV*) ¶ Wisdom [i.e. wisdom personified as a woman] **has built her house; she has hewn out her seven pillars.**

(Pro 9:1 KJV+) Wisdom^{H2454} **hath builded**^{H1129} **her house,**^{H1004} **she hath hewn out**^{H2672} **her seven**^{H7651} **pillars:**^{H5982}

(Pro 9:1 NASB) Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

(Pro 9:1 NIV) Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.

[Wisdom hath builded her house]

In **Prov 8** she was manifested in all of God's creation. Here she is the ruler of what she has built (**Prov 9:1-12**).

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom’s Invitation to Life

**Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars. (Proverbs 9:1)**

In **Prov 9:1-3** wisdom is building a house, making a banquet, and sending out her maids to invite guests to partake of her bounties.

She is pictured here as a builder, sculptress, butcher, and gracious hostess.

Wisdom is personified as a classy lady, opening to us her palatial home.

Taking the whole Bible into account, this is a picture of Jesus Christ as a wealthy and wise Friend who has thought of everything we need and provided it in full.

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom’s Invitation to Life

**Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars. (Proverbs 9:1)**

The word for “wisdom” here in verse 1 is singular in English but plural in the Hebrew—“wisdoms.”

It isn’t a numerical plural, it isn’t alternative wisdoms to choose from;

It is a plural of majesty for wisdom in all its perfections and fullness.

Another way of saying it: **“My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food” (Psalm 63:5)**

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom's Invitation to Life

**Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars. (Proverbs 9:1)**

Jesus himself said, **"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).**

Jesus Christ lacks nothing we need.

He is the greatest expert in the universe on you, and he is better at building a great life for you than you are.

The fact that Wisdom's house has "seven pillars" says the same thing — effort in hewing them out, wealth to finance them (ordinary homes did not have pillars), and perfection in completing them.

Proverbs 9:2-3

(Pro 9:2 NASB) She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; 3) She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city:

[sent forth her maidens] An Eastern custom.

In the N.T. men are sent forth with the banquet invitations **(Matt 22:3; Luke 14:17).**

The complete custom was that invitations were sent out to guests by a company of women, preceded by eunuchs.

They went from door to door of the invited, delivering their message..

Proverbs 9:2-3

(Pro 9:2 ISV*) ¶ She has prepared her food, [Or meat] she has spiced [Or mixed] her wine, and she also has set her dining table. 3) ¶ She has sent out her young women, while calling out from the heights of the city,

(Pro 9:2 KJV+) She hath killed^{H2873} her beasts;^{H2874} she hath mingled^{H4537} her wine;^{H3196} she hath also^{H637} furnished^{H6186} her table.^{H7979} 3) She hath sent forth^{H7971} her maidens.^{H5291} she crieth^{H7121} upon^{H5921} the highest places^{H1610 H4791} of the city,^{H7176}

(Pro 9:2 NASB) She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; 3) She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city:

(Pro 9:2 NIV) She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. 3) She has sent out her maids, and she calls from the highest point of the city.

Proverbs 9:2 Wisdom's Invitation

She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. (Proverbs 9:2)

No junk food at this feast!

Lady Wisdom has been bustling about preparing a banquet of her best—for us.

Mixing the wine does not mean watering it down.

Among Jews, Greeks, and Romans, wine was rarely used without mixing with water.

Some mixed 3 parts water with 1 of wine, and others 5 to 1.

The common mixture was 3 parts water and 2 parts wine.

Here it likely means adding in spices to make the wine even better.

Proverbs 9:2 Wisdom's Invitation

She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. (Proverbs 9:2)

What Christ offers you is ready right now, and it couldn't be more loving or generous or honoring to you.

This table spread with wisdom has delicacies to satisfy us in every area of life.

Chapter 1—wisdom preserves us from violent people.

Chapter 2—wisdom enters our hearts with peace of conscience.

Chapter 3—wisdom improves us financially.

Chapter 4—wisdom elevates our status in society.

Chapter 5—wisdom makes sex better.

Chapter 6—wisdom gets us up off the sofa and successfully accomplishing worthy goals.

Chapter 7—wisdom protects us in temptation.

Chapter 8—wisdom opens our eyes to the joyous creation in which we live.

And that's just for starters.

We have not even gotten to the actual proverbs yet, in chap 10—31.

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Proverbs 9:3-6

Christ has set a good table for us.

She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town,

“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

To him who lacks sense she says,

“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

Leave the company of the simples and live, and walk in the way of insight.” (Proverbs 9:3—6)

Wisdom—really, Christ himself—has sent messengers out into the world to invite more and more people into his banquet.

Wisdom is bold and public.

Wisdom cares deeply about people.

And we are his messengers today.

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Proverbs 9:3

(Pro 9:3 NASB) She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city:

A more literal translation of verse is, “***She has sent out her young women, she calls ...***”

Her servants are getting the invitations out, but Lady Wisdom herself is speaking through them.

It is a picture of the prophets and the apostles.

It is a picture of Christian parents and Sunday school teachers and preachers today.

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Proverbs 9:3

“When you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as ... the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

This understanding of the ministry of the gospel is almost forgotten today.

When I am preaching, I am not tossing out my own opinions.

I don't even care about my opinions. Why should you?

When you can see in your Bible that what the preacher is saying comes from the Bible, you are hearing the Word of God.

God is inviting you into the banquet.

The preacher's job is not to complicate it;

Your job is to receive it.

God is inviting us all into joys we have never known before, because they come down from Heaven.

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Proverbs 9:4

(Pro 9:4 ISV*) ¶ *“Let whoever is naïve, turn in here.” To anyone lacking sense, she says,*

(Pro 9:4 KJV+) *Whoso^{H4310} is simple,^{H6612} let him turn^{H5493} in hither:^{H2008} as for him that wanteth^{H2638} understanding,^{H3820} she saith^{H559} to him,*

(Pro 9:4 NASB) *“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks understanding she says,*

(Pro 9:4 NIV) *“Let all who are simple come in here!” she says to those who lack judgment.*

[Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither] Their message to the simple and those who lack understanding is, forsake the foolish things of life and live by going in the way of understanding.

[simple] See *Prov 1:4*.

[understanding] Hebrew: **leb** (OT:3820), translated heart over 500 times in the O.T., 76 of which are in Proverbs (*Pr 2:2,10; 3:1,3,5*; etc.).

Also translated understanding (*Prov 9:4,16; 6:32; 7:7; 10:13; 12:11; 15:32; 17:18; 24:30*); and wisdom (*Prov 10:21; 11:12; 15:21; 19:8*).

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Proverbs 9:4

(Pro 9:4 NASB) *“Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!” To him who lacks understanding she says,*

Anyone can join the party:

Remember that “the simple” is the beginner who lacks commitment.

But Christ is so humble to welcome us in, just as we are.

Here is a simple gospel mantra always to keep in mind:

1. I am a complete idiot.
2. My future is incredibly bright.
3. Anyone can get in on this.

All we have to do is turn to him. That is repentance.

Gospel repentance is more than turning away from sin.

Gospel repentance is, first and foremost, turning toward Jesus Christ.

How can you and I ever turn completely from our sins unless we turn to Christ completely.

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Proverbs 9:5

(Pro 9:5 ISV*) ¶ *“Come! Eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed.*

(Pro 9:5 KJV+) *Come,^{H1980} eat^{H3898} of my bread,^{H3899} and drink^{H8354} of the wine^{H3196} which I have mingled.^{H4537}*

(Pro 9:5 NASB) *“Come, eat of my food And drink of the wine I have mixed.*

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

Christ is inviting us to come now to receive his very best:

He is telling us to come freely and eat fully.

Grace wasn't cheap to Christ at the cross, but it is free to us.

A fine banquet of grace, freely open to fools.

The invitation of wisdom to eat her bread and drink her wine is a symbol of life through proper wisdom and understanding.

In the N.T. bread and wine symbolize the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ, which give life to all who appropriate their benefits by faith (*Matt 26:26-30; 1 Cor 10:16-17; 11:23-30*).

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Proverbs 9:6

(Pro 9:6 ISV*) ¶ *Leave your naïve ways, and live. Walk in the path of understanding.”*

(Pro 9:6 KJV+) *Forsake^{H5800} the foolish,^{H6612} and live;^{H2421} and go^{H833} in the way^{H1870} of understanding.^{H998}*

(Pro 9:6 NASB) *“Forsake your folly and live, And proceed in the way of understanding.”*

(Pro 9:6 NIV) *Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.*

The price we do pay: *“Leave the company of the simple”*

Christ is creating a new community of wisdom.

When Christ brings us to himself, we enter a new group experience.

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Proverbs 9:6

(Pro 9:6 NASB) "Forsake your folly and live, And proceed in the way of understanding."

Community in Christ isn't a legalistic rule against missing church; it is plugging into the power of sharing Christ together.

Your old group cannot give you that.

You should keep on loving them. But you have a new community in Christ. where you can "walk in the way of insight."

Four examples of forsaking things to live:

1. Moses (***Heb 11:24-27***)
2. Rahab (***Josh 2:9-13; 6:25; Heb 11:31***)
3. Ruth (***Ruth 1:16; 2:11-12***)
4. Disciples (***Matt 4:18-22; 9:9; etc.***)

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Proverbs 9:7-12 Wisdom Extends Life

Why Scoffers Are Excluded

Every one of us needs someone to whom we regularly say, "How can I improve?"

And then we need to listen.

Openness and humility are how we grow.

Scoffers are not like that.

A scoffer is anyone who never accepts correction.

He thinks other people really need his opinions.

He is easily offended.

He is above other people.

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Proverbs 9:7-12 Wisdom Extends Life

Why Scoffers Are Excluded

Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it. (Prov 9:7-12)

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Proverbs 9:7 Wisdom Extends Life

(Pro 9:7 NASB) He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself.

If someone seems to threaten a scoffer's superiority,

He scoffs. He mocks. He mouths off. He denigrates.

No man earns more universal detestation or deserves it more than he who wears a perpetual sneer,

- who is himself incapable of deep loyalty and reverence and
- who supposes that it is his mission in life to promote the corrosion of the values by which individuals and society live.

This kind of person is dangerous.

Cross him, he will punish you — and claim it is your fault.

We see it in the strife abounding in our churches today.

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Proverbs 9:7

(Pro 9:7 ISV) ¶ Whoever corrects a mocker invites only insult, [Lit. insult to himself] and whoever rebukes the wicked will himself become stained.*

(Pro 9:7 KJV+) He that reproveth^{H3256} a scorner^{H3887} getteth^{H3947} to himself shame:^{H7036} and he that rebuketh^{H3198} a wicked^{H7563} man getteth himself a blot.^{H3971}

(Pro 9:7 NASB) He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, And he who reproves a wicked man gets insults for himself.

(Pro 9:7 NIV) "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.

[scorner] See *Ps 1:1*.

[wicked] Hebrew: **rasha** (OT:7563), lawlessness (*Isa 57:20-21*).

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Proverbs 9:8

(Pro 9:8 ISV) ¶ Don't rebuke a mocker or he will hate you. Rebuke a wise person, and he will love you.*

(Pro 9:8 KJV+) Reprove^{H3198} not^{H408} a scorner,^{H3887} lest^{H6435} he hate^{H8130} thee: rebuke^{H3198} a wise man,^{H2450} and he will love^{H157} thee.

(Pro 9:8 NASB) Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

(Pro 9:8 NIV) Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

There are those who will not hear. They are the scorners. There is no use wasting your time with them.

In practically every church you will find a little group that will resist the Word of God.

Are we to keep on giving the Word of God to them?

The Lord Jesus said not to cast our pearls before swine.

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Proverbs 9:8

(Pro 9:8 NASB) Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, Reprove a wise man and he will love you.

Avoiding Truth (The Scorners' Creed):

There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all argument, and which cannot fail to keep man in everlasting ignorance.

That principle is condemnation before investigation.

— Attributed to Edmund Spencer

Three examples of rebuking and being hated:

1. Joseph (*Gen 37:2, 18-28*)
2. The prophet (*2 Chron 25:16*)
3. John the Baptist (*Matt 14:1-10*)

Three examples of rebuking and being loved:

1. Nathan (*2 Sam 12*)
2. Two disciples (*Luke 24:25-29*)
3. Peter (*John 21:17; Gal 2:11-14*)

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Proverbs 9:9

(Pro 9:9 ISV) ¶ Counsel a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will add to his learning.*

(Pro 9:9 KJV+) Give^{H5414} instruction to a wise^{H2450} man, and he will be yet^{H5750} wiser:^{H2449} teach^{H3045} a just^{H6662} man, and he will increase^{H3254} in learning.^{H3948}

(Pro 9:9 NASB) Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.

(Pro 9:9 NIV) Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning.

Give a hint to the wise; teach a just man and both will profit.

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Proverbs 9:10

(Pro 9:10 ISV) ¶ The fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins, and knowing holiness [Or knowing holy ones] demonstrates understanding.*

(Pro 9:10 KJV+) The fear^{H3374} of the LORD^{H3068} is the beginning^{H8462} of wisdom:^{H2451} and the knowledge^{H1847} of the holy^{H6918} is understanding.^{H998}

(Pro 9:10 NASB) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

(Pro 9:10 NIV) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

[fear] Hebrew: **yir'ah** (OT:3374). See *Prov 1:7*.

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Proverbs 9:10 The Key verse of the entire book!

(Pro 9:10 NASB) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

We revere Jesus as the Holy One, which means he is unique, separate, different, outside of our categories, surprising us, especially as he loves us more than we love him.

The truth is, we have let him down so many times.

But here is his heart toward us: will not execute my burning anger. . . for I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst" (Hosea 11:9).

The Holy One is sweet-natured.

He is the easiest person in the universe to get along with.

"Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline" (Revelation 3:19)

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Proverbs 9:10 The Key verse of the entire book!

(Pro 9:10 NASB) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

A man is a fool to live without God in this world.

The question for the Atheist: "What is your back-up plan?"

We have all been let down and by have no reason to not be cynical scoffers — no reason except Jesus.

He will never let us down.

He is why we humble ourselves and open up and listen.

He is why the tone of our churches need not be sarcasm but reverence:

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Proverbs 9:11

(Pro 9:11 ISV) ¶ For because of me you will live a long life, and years will be added to your life.*

(Pro 9:11 KJV+) For^{H3588} by me thy days^{H3117} shall be multiplied,^{H7235} and the years^{H8141} of thy life^{H2416} shall be increased.^{H3254}

(Pro 9:11 NASB) For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

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

Vice shortens life; righteousness has the promise of long life (*Ps 91*).

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Proverbs 9:12

(Pro 9:12 ISV) ¶ If you are wise, your wisdom will assist you. If you mock, you alone will be held responsible.*

(Pro 9:12 KJV+) If^{H518} thou be wise,^{H2449} thou shalt be wise^{H2449} for thyself: but if thou scornest,^{H3887} thou alone^{H905} shalt bear^{H5375} it.

(Pro 9:12 NASB) If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

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

[If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself] Job 22:2-3; 35:6-9; Rom 11:35.

[but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it] Num 9:13; Job 34:31; Jer 7:19.

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Proverbs 9:12

(Pro 9:12 NASB) If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

Are we laying hold of Christ?

Are we saying in our hearts,

"I refuse to read the great stories of how God has blessed others in the past and just leave it there.

This is my moment. This is my life.

And I need Christ now.

Like Jacob, I will not let him go until he blesses me"?

He loves to answer that prayer.

Good thing, given the world we are walking through.

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Proverbs 9:12

(Pro 9:12 NASB) If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

Revering him makes all the difference for every one of us in the most personal way:

As important as community is, I cannot borrow character from you, nor can you borrow character from me.

Just being at church will not change us.

No one gets a degree from a University by hanging out on campus and blending in with the students.

Each of us must receive Christ personally.

We must seek him and engage with him personally.

He is how we change. He is how wisdom enters into us.

And when he gives it to us, no one can take it away from us, no matter what they say or do.

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Proverbs 9

We cannot avoid decisions:

"Decision determines destiny."

We choose either the path of Wisdom or the path of Folly; we cannot postpone this decision or avoid it.

To choose one is to reject the other;

To reject one is to choose the other.

What decision have *you* made?

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Risk Analysis: Pascal's Wager

		Conclusion	
<u>Actuality</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>True</u>	
True	Type I Error	OK	
False	OK	Type II Error	

Type I Error: Rejecting a true hypothesis
 Type II Error: Accepting a false hypothesis

Proverbs 9

Let us assess the two cases:

- if you win you win everything,
- if you lose you lose nothing.

Since a choice must be made:

You have two things to lose: the true and the good; and
 You have two things to stake: your **reason** and your will,
 your knowledge and your **happiness**; and
 Your nature has two things to avoid: error and
 wretchedness.

Let us weigh up the gain and the loss involved in calling heads that God exists.

- if you win you win everything,
- if you lose you lose nothing.

Do not hesitate then; wager that he does exist.”

Proverbs 9

Let us assess the two cases:

- if you win you win everything,
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Since a choice must be made:

You have two things to lose: the true and the good; and
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 your knowledge and your **happiness**; and
 Your nature has two things to avoid: error and
 wretchedness.

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

Folly's Invitation to Death

*The woman Folly is loud;
 she is seductive and knows nothing.
 She sits at the door of her house;
 she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,
 calling to those who pass by,
 who are going straight on their way,
 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
 And to him who lacks sense she says,
 "Stolen water is sweet,
 and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."
 But he does not know that the dead are there,
 that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. (Pr 9:13-18)*

That is a picture of our world today.

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

Here in verses 13-18 the parallels with Wisdom's invitation in verses 1-6 are striking.

"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" (vv. 4, 16).

But there are differences.

First, Wisdom builds her house,
but Folly just sits there and expects us to be impressed.

Second, Wisdom offers us meat and wine,
but Folly offers us bread and water.

Third, Wisdom is dealing honestly with us,
but Folly is making glamorous promises that cannot
come true.

Fourth, Wisdom's followers live more and more forever,
but Folly's playmates die a sugarcoated death before
they even know what hit them.

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

Folly is truthful at one point.

Stolen water is sweet to us

— for a little while, that is, until the guilt sets in.

Our corrupt hearts have a relish for evil.

Do you have a taste for sin, vulgarity, and folly? We all do.

What is the subject matter of your favorite TV series?

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

We all know what it is like to be stuck down there in that abyss of Self where we cannot even choose Christ.

How can we choose him as the passion of our lives
when we are passionate for lesser things, even wrong
things?

There is only one way we can jump out of a hole that has
no bottom. Hear the gospel again.

Jesus Christ loves you — not the rehabilitated you but
the real you down in that abyss — and he welcomes
you to himself.

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

***"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."***

1 Tim 1:15

Between the word "save" and the word "sinners," there is no
adjective.

It does not say, "penitent sinners," "awakened sinners,"
"sensible sinners," "grieving sinners," or "alarmed sinners."

It only says, "sinners."

I do not come to Christ offering Him myself ...

I come to Him offering nothing of value,
receiving in turn all of value that He is and has ...

For your sake, Jesus lived a perfect life, he chose wisdom
every time, and against intense seduction.

Then Jesus died on the cross a death he did not deserve, a
sacrificial death for the stupidity of the rest of us.

Proverbs 9:13-18 Folly's Entrapment

2 Cor 5:19 *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

Jesus covers your sin when you deserve to be exposed, but he accepts you and rejoices over you.

Look up to him by faith, see his love for you right now, and receive it.

Whatever might be your next step of obedience, take it.

You are able to choose.

Choose wisely, to the praise of the glory of his grace.

Proverbs 9:13

(Pro 9:13 ISV*) ¶ *The foolish woman is loud, undisciplined, and without knowledge.*

(Pro 9:13 KJV+) *A foolish^{H3687} woman^{H802} is clamorous:^{H1993} she is simple,^{H6615} and knoweth^{H3045} nothing.^{H1077 H4100}*

(Pro 9:13 NASB) *The woman of folly is boisterous, She is naive and knows nothing.*

(Pro 9:13 NIV) *The woman Folly is loud; she is undisciplined and without knowledge.*

Sin is always alluring:

Folly does everything she can to make sin attractive.

She never reveals her true nature;

She never tells people that her house is the way to hell.

The only way to detect Folly is to walk with Wisdom (**Pro 2:10-22**).

Those who walk with Wisdom, obeying the Word of God, will not easily be tricked by Folly

Proverbs 9:13

(Pro 9:13 NASB) *The woman of folly is boisterous, She is naive and knows nothing.*

Five facts about a foolish woman:

1. She is clamorous — in continual uproar; noisy; boisterous (**Prov 9:13; 7:11**).
2. She is simple — silly; easily seduced (**Prov 9:13; cp. 2 Tim 3:6**); the opposite of wisdom in **Prov 9:1**.
3. She knows nothing — knows no shame; utterly ignorant and depraved (**Prov 9:13**).
4. She watches for victims of sin (**Prov 9:14; Gen 38:14; Jer 3:2**).
5. She is impudent or bold to call to any stranger and tempt the innocent to sin (**Prov 9:15-17**).

Proverbs 9:14-16

(Pro 9:14 ISV*) ¶ *She sits at the entrance of her house, on a seat high above the city. 15) ¶ She calls out to those passing by on the road, who are minding their own business, [Or are going straight on their way] 16) ¶ “Whoever is naïve, turn in here!” And to anyone lacking sense, she says,*

(Pro 9:14 KJV+) *For she sitteth^{H3427} at the door^{H6607} of her house,^{H1004} on^{H5921} a seat^{H3678} in the high places^{H4791} of the city,^{H7176} 15) To call^{H7121} passengers^{H5674 H1870} who go right^{H3474} on their ways.^{H734} 16) Whoso^{H4310} is simple,^{H6612} let him turn^{H5493} in hither.^{H2008} and as for him that wanteth^{H2638} understanding,^{H3820} she saith^{H559} to him,*

Proverbs 9:14-16

(Pro 9:14 NASB) *She sits at the doorway of her house, On a seat by the high places of the city, 15) Calling to those who pass by, Who are making their paths straight: 16) "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here," And to him who lacks understanding she says,*

(Pro 9:14 NIV) *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 in here!" she says to those who lack judgment.*

[Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither] One who goes in to a harlot lacks understanding.

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Proverbs 9:14-16

(Pro 9:14 NASB) *She sits at the doorway of her house, On a seat by the high places of the city, 15) Calling to those who pass by, Who are making their paths straight: 16) "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here," And to him who lacks understanding she says,*

It takes time for judgment to fall:

The simple, the fool, and the scorner all thought they "had it made" when they rejected Wisdom, because nothing disastrous immediately happened.

But judgment eventually caught up with them.

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Proverbs 9:14-16

"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap"
(Gal 6:7).

The Fruits of Debauchery

"My days are in the yellow leaf; the flowers and fruits of love are gone; The worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone!"

Lord Byron

Byron had everything this world can offer—good looks, genius, fame, wealth, and yet he said, "the worm, the canker, and the grief are mine alone!"

That is what the school of the foolish woman did for him.

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Proverbs 9:14-16

"Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" ***(Gal 6:7).***

Satan appeals to the flesh:

The "wicked woman" (or "strange woman") is appealing to the young man's appetites.

She tells him he can use his body as he pleases and not suffer for it.

Sexual sin leads to tragic results, both in body and soul.

In these days of flagrant immorality (in movies, TV, music, advertising, etc.), it is important that young and old people keep their hearts and minds pure.

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Proverbs 9:17

(Pro 9:17 ISV) ¶ “Stolen waters are sweet, and food eaten in secret is delicious.”*

(Pro 9:17 KJV+) Stolen^{H1589} waters^{H4325} are sweet,^{H4985} and bread^{H3899} eaten in secret^{H5643} is pleasant.^{H5276}

(Pro 9:17 NASB) “Stolen water is sweet; And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

(Pro 9:17 NIV) “Stolen water is sweet; food eaten in secret is delicious!”

The foolish woman (**Prov 9:13**) preaches that unlawful pleasures are sweeter than lawful ones.

Upon this deception is built all the adulterous behavior.

Proverbs 9:18

(Pro 9:18 ISV) ¶ But he does not realize that the dead lurk there, and her invited guests wind up in the depths of Sheol. [i.e. the realm of the dead]*

(Pro 9:18 KJV+) But he knoweth^{H3045} not^{H3808} that^{H3588} the dead^{H7496} are there;^{H8033} and that her guests^{H7121} are in the depths^{H6011} of hell.^{H7585}

(Pro 9:18 NASB) But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

(Pro 9:18 NIV) But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of the grave.

[dead] Hebrew: **rapha°** (OT:7496), Rephaim, a proper name of one of the races of the giants, identifying the wickedness of the giants as sexual sins.

[hell] Hebrew: **She°owl** (OT:7585), the place of the conscious immortal soul and spirit (**Luke 12:5; 16:19-31**).

Proverbs 9:18

(Pro 9:18 NASB) But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

God continues to call:

So long as people will hear, God's Spirit continues to call.

But when sinners refuse to obey, their ears become deaf to the Word of God. Beware!

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb 3:7ff).

Proverbs 9: An Addendum

Which Judgment of God Results from the Denial of the Creation?

Romans Chapter 1

20] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21] Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

In studying the Bible, I was surprised to see the unusual emphasis on the importance of the Creation throughout the Bible...

Proverbs 9: An Addendum

Romans Chapter 1

23] *And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

24] *Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25] Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.*

26] *For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27] And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.*

28] *And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

29] *Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents...*