



Today's Message

Date: March 29, 2015
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *At the Crossroads of Decision*

Text: Proverbs 8 (ESV)

¹ Does not wisdom call?
Does not understanding raise her voice?
² On the heights beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
³ beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:
⁴ “To you, O men, I call,
and my cry is to the children of man.
⁵ O simple ones, learn prudence;
O fools, learn sense.
⁶ Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right,
⁷ for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
⁸ All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
⁹ They are all straight to him who understands,
and right to those who find knowledge.
¹⁰ Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold,
¹¹ for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
¹² “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.
¹³ The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil.
Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.
¹⁴ I have counsel and sound wisdom;
I have insight; I have strength.
¹⁵ By me kings reign,

and rulers decree what is just;

- 16 by me princes rule,
and nobles, all who govern justly.
- 17 I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.
- 18 Riches and honor are with me,
enduring wealth and righteousness.
- 19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
- 20 I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the paths of justice,
- 21 granting an inheritance to those who love me,
and filling their treasuries.
- 22 “The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of old.
- 23 Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.
- 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
- 25 Before the mountains had been shaped,
before the hills, I was brought forth,
- 26 before he had made the earth with its fields,
or the first of the dust of the world.
- 27 When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
- 28 when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of the deep,
- 29 when he assigned to the sea its limit,
so that the waters might not transgress his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
- 30 then I was beside him, like a master workman,
and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always,
- 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world
and delighting in the children of man.
- 32 “And now, O sons, listen to me:
blessed are those who keep my ways.
- 33 Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.
- 34 Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.
- 35 For whoever finds me finds life

and obtains favor from the LORD,
³⁶ but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death.”

Introduction: Solomon offered his son two lessons regarding the seductive woman (Proverbs 6:20-7:27). Next he balances that teaching with two lessons that personify wisdom as a woman who calls out to be heard (8:1-9:18). Wisdom undergirds all that God does in his creation. His wisdom provides redemption and a rich, fulfilling life to all who heed her call.

Today’s take-home truth: The world promises joy it cannot give; true joy comes from loving God’s wisdom.

I. Introduction: Wisdom calls out for all to hear. 1-11

- A. Everyone should listen to her, especially the young. 1-5
- B. And everyone should value her message because it is utterly true. 6-11

II. Lesson: She declares that blessing and joy come only to those who love God’s wisdom. 12-31

- A. God’s wisdom is the source of all good things in history . . . 12-21
 - 1. Divine wisdom establishes a just society. 12-17
 - 2. Divine wisdom provides personal blessings. 18-21
- B. Because God’s wisdom is the foundation the created order. 22-31

1. The eternal God is the source of wisdom (not us). 22-26
2. By wisdom he created the universe for his delight. 27-31

III. Conclusion: So, listen to her! 32-36

- A. If you love wisdom, you will find blessing, life, and grace. 32-35
- B. If you refuse to love wisdom, you will find pain and death. 36