

Proverbs Chapter 9

In Proverbs chapter 9, we continue our study along parallel lines of Solomon's son's education, in Wisdom's school, and that of you and me, the Christian's, sons of the Most High, in earth's school of hard knocks, where we are taught to think and act like the person of Jesus. Solomon's son is off to college with the goal of a Ph.D. in mind, and you and me, well we will be privileged to sit at the feet of the world's greatest Teacher, our Lord Jesus Christ, through His written Word with the Holy Spirit as Proctor. Our sole objective is to be invited into the fraternity of Heaven, being made worthy to stand before the very throne of God.

Proverbs 9:1-2: *Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ²She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table;*

- **The campus has been prepared, the libraries are filled, and the lectern is ready. She has hewn her school out of _____ pillars. Seven, as you may recall throughout Scripture, is always significant of "completeness." Wisdom's school has a total curriculum, able to take on freshmen and send them out with a doctorate.**
- **Without trying to extrapolate more than is stated, notice that Wisdom, whom we have already determined is really a characterization of our Lord Jesus, has set the _____, prepared the food and the wine. Notice the parallel beginning in Matthew 26:19: *So the disciples did as Jesus told them and prepared the Passover supper there. [26] As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it, for this is my body." [27] And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them and said, "Each of you drink from it, [28] for this is my blood, which seals the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many. [29] Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom."* [NLT]**

Heaven's school is open, this is the registration table of the New Covenant. You and I at some point in our lives, need to sign the contract, this is our matriculation day. We need to open the door that seals our innermost being. Jesus said, "Behold, ***I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.*** Rev. 3:20 [NASB] matriculate

Proverbs 9:3: *She has sent out her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city:*

Didn't our Lord Jesus do the same? Luke 10:1 records: *Now after this, the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two and two ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come.* [NASB]

➤ **The invitation has been _____.** Notice the "seven" in the number seventy. The invitation is complete - there won't be another. 2 Cor. 6:2: . . . *behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation".* [NASB]

Compiler's note: The invitation is still going out today, the school bell is still tolling; you and I are counted as among those who are sent out to hand deliver the invitation. We must hurry. His table has been set.

Proverbs 9:4-6: *"Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says, ⁵ "Come, eat of my food and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶ "**Forsake** your folly and live and proceed in the way of understanding."*

➤ **The invitation to learn goes out to all who are _____, immature in the ways of our God. The teacher is offering _____, and all that is asked in return is that we _____ the folly of our old ways when entering the halls of supreme education and life.**

Matthew 22:3 speaks of the wedding supper of our Lord where, ***many guests were invited, and when the***

banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify everyone that it was time to come. But they all refused! [NLT]

Proverbs 9:7: *He who corrects a scoffer gets dishonor for himself, and he who reproveth a wicked man gets insults for himself.*

- **Wisdom cautions us; we shouldn't be surprised or astonished when the _____s_ reject the Word of God, and we are made the focus of their rejection.**

Jesus illustrates the point of this in the next few passages, with these condemning words: ***"Don't give what is holy to unholy people. Don't give pearls to swine! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you."*** Matthew 7:6 [NLT]

Proverbs 9:8-9: *Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, reprove a wise man and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man and he will be still wiser, teach a righteous man and he will increase his learning.*

- **As Christ's witnesses, we need to be "thick-skinned." When we share the Word of God, expect that a scoffer will _____ us. Conversely a _____ man will be appreciative, thanking us for the council, and become even _____ on account of it.**

Proverbs 9:10: ***The fear of the Lord*** is the **beginning** of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Compiler's note: To express just how important the phrase, *The fear of the Lord*, is! It is repeated twenty-seven times, thirteen times in the book of Proverbs alone. Do you think maybe our Lord wants to draw our attention to it?



- **Only as we hold our Creator in absolute "Awe" can we begin to make sense out of life? He is the _____ of wisdom, knowledge and understanding. In our nation's schools, creationism is being**

mocked as uninformed pabulum for the ignorant. Those who hold to the pseudo-scientific theory of evolution, consider intelligent design as that which is spewed irrationally by the misinformed and ignorant. The truth is, it takes a lot more faith to be an atheist, believing that the complexities of life that surround us, evolved naturally, by chance, from some primordial slime.

Proverbs 9:11-12: *For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you. ^[12] If you are wise, you are **wise** for yourself, and if you scoff, you **alone** will bear it.*

- **The burden of our salvation is an individual thing. True, God is not willing for any to perish, but the onus to accept His invitation remains within ourselves. God has done His part; He has prepared the feast and sent out the invitations, now it is up to us to be _____ enough to accept the invitation. If we crumple it up and toss it aside, we _____ will bear the brunt of our foolishness.**

God's Word now shows us the catalog of this world's university, opposite of the school which is attended by those on the narrow way. Call the school what you will, but its curriculum is designed by humanist, atheist, agnostics, and apostates.

Proverbs 9:13: *The woman of folly is boisterous; She is naive and knows nothing. ¹⁴ 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:*

- **Because of our inherited human nature, natural born people flock to her doors, she doesn't have to lure them in. Since the fall of Adam, all people are born on this river of life. Like the folks on the river that we began chapter 8 with,ⁱ she only has to distract them, to keep them from noticing the take-out point, and they will happily continue to paddle along as they _____ the narrow tributary ⁱⁱ that leads to safety and eternal life.**

Proverbs 9:16: "Whoever is **naïve** (inexperienced), let him turn in here," And to him who lacks understanding she says, "Stolen water is **sweet**, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant."

- God knows, through the physical life that He observed while He lived through the person of Jesus, that sin offers only a temporary _____ness, yet, it is the _____ that will continue along the path of false security, and this to one's own destruction.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus illustrates this point of false security and the pleasures of sin in what is known as the parable of the sower. He presented the tale of seeds planted in different environments to His listeners, and later He goes on to explain its meaning to His disciples.

"This is the meaning of the story: The seed is God's message. ^[12] The seed that fell on the hard path represents those who hear the message, but then the Devil comes and steals it away and prevents them from believing and being saved. ^[13] The rocky soil represents those who hear the message with joy. But like young plants in such soil, their roots don't go very deep. They believe for a while, but they wilt when the hot winds of testing blow. ^[14] The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so, they never grow into maturity. ^[15] But the good soil represents honest, good-hearted people who hear God's message, cling to it, and steadily produce a huge harvest. Luke 8:11-15 [NLT]

Proverbs 9:18: *But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the **depths** of Sheol.*

- The naïve choose to remain in the school that gently flows along the broad way, unaware of the devastating waterfall that looms around the next turn, completely oblivious to the shouted warnings of Jesus about the

impending disaster ahead. Around the bend, the river plummets, taking all who remain into the _____ of Hell.

I hope that you will stay with me as we move forward into chapter 10. In the next chapter, we will enter the classroom, sit at the feet of Jesus, and enjoy some of the lectures that the student of God hears.

If you have comments, questions, or additional insight, please share them with me at: GregDeans1@gmail.com

ⁱ One of my many pleasures was to take them on white water adventures down the length of the upper Youghiogheny [**yaw -ki-GAY-nee**] river, from Confluence to Ohionyle. Along the route we would encounter many rapids before passing Elephant Rock. Just below that signature rock, after the water settled down, was a takeout point. It wasn't always easy to spot, especially after such an exhilarating trip, surrounded by the pristine mountains of the Laurel Highlands; but those who missed it would soon find disaster loomed ahead, for further on lay a treacherous waterfall that has claimed many lives. Pre-Christians are traveling by nature along the broad way, but ahead lay a decision for each to make; to remain on the broad way, paddling past the small, narrow takeout point, or to head to shore and certain safety.

ⁱⁱ Matthew 7:14 *"For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.* [NASB]