

Proverbs Chapter 9

Proverbs 9:1 "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:"

The first thing we must look at here is the "house". The wise person (Christian), is building a house. The significance of "her seven pillars", is to convey the sufficiency of this house as full in size and fit for a banquet.

This is a spiritual house that we read about (in 1 Peter 2:5).

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

We can read a great deal about the Christian being God's house (in chapter 3 of Hebrews). It would be good to read from (verse 1 through 6). I will just quote (verse 6 here),

Hebrews 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

In Revelation 21:3, we see that the tabernacle of God is with men. God is our house, and we are His. These "seven pillars" are similar to the seven pillars in the temple in Jerusalem. "Seven" means spiritually complete, and we see the perfection that God will build His house.

We also see seven churches in Revelation which are symbolic of all Christendom. We also see the seven gifts of the Spirit which supports the church.

Proverbs 9:2 "She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table."

We see here in the "mingled wine" the wine that has been diluted with water for drinking in the temple. The table is well furnished with beasts and wine.

Wine was diluted with water as much as 1 to 8 to reduce its power to intoxicate. It was also mixed with spices for flavor. Unmixed wine is called strong drink.

Proverbs 9:3 "She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,"

We see in this Scripture the "she", of course, is wisdom. "Maidens" in God's sight are the bride of Christ. In this case, these would be those who are going out with a wise message to invite people to the marriage supper of the Lamb. This then would be ministers who go everywhere and bring God's message calling them to be saved and to come to this supper.

The call of wisdom is not secret, but public.

Proverbs 9:4 "Whoso [is] simple, let him turn in hither: [as for] him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,"

God sends to the lowly of the earth the invitation to come to Him. In fact, the invitation is to whosoever will. You see, ordinarily it is not the worldly wise who come humbly to God, but it is just ordinary people like you and me.

Proverbs 9:5 "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine [which] I have mingled."

This is God's banquet call.

The invitation here in verse 5 is the same Jesus gave the disciples. He broke the bread and said eat of His body and served the wine and said drink of His blood. Bread and wine are communion dishes. They are the communion of the saints with the Lord.

Proverbs 9:6 "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."

Only a fool would say there is no God. We are to turn from our foolish ways (forsake), so that we might have everlasting life. To go in the way of understanding, is to accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

In verses 7-9 we see that wise people receive reproof and rebuke with appreciation; fools do not.

Proverbs 9:7 "He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked [man getteth] himself a blot."

When you witness to someone about the Scriptures trying to get them saved and they ridicule you for it and want to argue about it, it is best not to argue. Sometimes their guilt becomes so great, that they might tell lies and do you harm. This does not mean that we are to stop trying to help people come to the Lord; but it does mean if we see they are angered by our trying to help them, just go on and leave them alone.

Proverbs 9:8 "Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."

We see here that some people will not accept your message if it corrects error in their life. Some people, if you remind them of sin in their life, will hate you. I have heard people say in church, if the preacher doesn't step on their toes pretty often, he is not a good preacher. These are the wise who want to be reminded of their sins so they can repent.

Proverbs 9:9 "Give [instruction] to a wise [man], and he will be yet wiser: teach a just [man], and he will increase in learning."

There is really no question about what this means. Those who are wise are eager to take instruction from someone who knows a little more about the subject. The only people who can increase in learning are the ones who want to learn.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding."

We touched on this earlier in Proverbs, but we will say here, fear of God is reverence of God.

1 Samuel tells us about the advantages of those who fear the Lord over those who do not.

1 Samuel 12:14-15 "If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:" "But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as [it was] against your fathers."

The holy here is God. So this is saying the knowledge of God is understanding.

Proverbs 9:11 "For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."

This is not only speaking of our life being extended here on earth, but for all of eternity.

Proverbs 9:12 "If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but [if] thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear [it]."

We see here that it is our own responsibility to seek wisdom, and it is our own loss if we reject the Lord.

Every individual is responsible for his or her own conduct, so that the choices we make affect our own lives.

Verses 13-18: The feast of folly is described as offered by the foolish hostess. Note the contrast with lady wisdom (in verses 1-6), and similarities to the immoral woman (in 7:6-23).

Proverbs 9:13 "A foolish woman [is] clamorous: [she is] simple, and knoweth nothing."

This has a literal meaning. A foolish woman is a woman who does not have godly ways. This describes a woman with poor morals. This also can be symbolic of the opposite of wisdom. Foolishness is rejection of God. Certainly, this person would know nothing that is truly important.

Proverbs 9:14-16 "For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city," "To call passengers who go right on their ways:" "Whoso [is] simple, let him turn in hither: and [as for] him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,"

The literal of this woman would be that of the harlot woman who waits on the street corner and seduces her victims. The men who are not of God get involved in her sin. The spiritual here, has to do with those who reject God and go the way of the world. In both cases, we would have to say that they are lacking in understanding.

Proverbs 9:17 "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread [eaten] in secret is pleasant."

Forbidden delights sometimes seem sweeter and more pleasant because of their risk and danger.

Proverbs 9:18 "But he knoweth not that the dead [are] there; [and that] her guests [are] in the depths of hell."

"Stolen waters" here is speaking of a man having an affair with a harlot. This is not his wife. Adultery, as we have said before, leads to hell and destruction. The flattering words of folly lead to death.

It is interesting that wisdom offered meat and wine to her guests and the foolish offers bread and water. It seems that the world wants only the forbidden fruit. But just as it led Adam and Eve to destruction, so will it bring the foolish down. Death and hell await the foolish that reject God.

Proverbs Chapter 9 Questions

1. In verse 1, how many pillars have been hewn?
2. What had seven pillars in the building?
3. Who is building a spiritual house?
4. What are the Christians called in 1 Peter 2?
5. In Hebrews 3:6, we are God's house if we do what?
6. In Revelation 21:3, the tabernacle of God is where?
7. What other seven can be thought of as holding up the church?
8. What does "mingled wine" mean?
9. Maidens in God's sight are whom?

10. In this particular use of "maidens", it is probably who?
11. In verse 4, calling of the simple is what?
12. In verse 5, the bread and wine remind us of what?
13. Forsake the foolish and _____.
14. What does "forsake" mean?
15. In verse 7, what does reproving a scorner mean?
16. If you reprove a scorner, he will _____.
17. Rebuke a wise man and he will _____.
18. The wise are eager for what in verse 9?
19. The knowledge of the holy is _____.
20. Who is holy?
21. What is meant by fear of God?
22. By wisdom what can happen to your life?
23. Whose responsibility is it to receive wisdom?
24. What kind of woman is clamorous?
25. What is the literal meaning of this type of woman?
26. What lie does she tell them to seduce them?