

Prov 8:1 Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? 2 On the heights along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; 3 beside the gates leading into the city, at the entrances, she cries aloud: 4 "To you, O men, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. 5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding. 6 Listen, for I have worthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right.

WE NOW COME TO THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST SECTION OF PROVERBS. THE OVER ALL THEME WE HAVE BEEN STUDYING IS HOW THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAN BUILD A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE. LIFE IN CHRIST IS MORE THAN JUST ATTENDING CHURCH, LEARNING THE LINGO OF FUNDAMENTALISM. DEVELOPING A "CHURCH LIFE-STYLE." LIFE IN CHRIST IS THE BUILDING OF A YOUNG MAN'S LIFE SO THAT HE CAN LIVE IN A HOME THAT PROTECTS HIM. THAT HOME IS THE HOME THAT WISDOM BUILDS - THAT HOME IS YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST.

Prov 9:1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars. 2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

YOU SEE, LIFE IN CHRIST IS NOT ABOUT BEING RELIGIOUS - IT IS ABOUT A LIFE THAT IS EXCITING, FULL OF LIVING, REWARDING. IT IS A LIFE THAT GIVES A YOUNG MAN PURPOSE - A FRIEND WHO WILL STICK WITH HIM THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT OF TIMES. IT IS A LIFE THAT WILL GIVE HIM A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, A FAMILY AND MOST OF ALL A LIFE OF CONFIDENCE OF AN ETERNITY IN HEAVEN WITH GOD'S FAMILY.

WISDOM'S CALL IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ADULTEROUS WOMAN'S CALL. THE CALL IS LIFE IN CHRIST OR THE SELF-LIFE. A LIFE THAT BUILDS OR A LIFE THAT TEARS DOWN. LIFE OR DEATH. IN CHRIST WE LIVE. IN OUR SELVES WE DIE. THE CALL IS THAT SIMPLE.

THE DECISION IS OURS

Prov 8:10 Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her.

WHEN IT COMES RIGHT DOWN TO IT IT'S OUR CHOICE. WE LIVE IN A NATION WHERE GOD'S WORD IS RIGHT NEXT TO US. ESPECIALLY IN THE CHRISTIAN HOME. THERE ARE NATIONS WHERE THAT IS NOT SO. IN THOSE NATIONS THE FAMILY UNIT IS IN DEEP TROUBLE. RUSSIA IS PAYING FOR 70 YEARS OF OPPRESSING THE PRESENCE OF THE BIBLE WITH AN IMMENSE DRINKING PROBLEM. CRIME IS ON THE INCREASE. THE VERY EXISTENCE OF FREEDOM IN RUSSIA IS VERY QUESTIONABLE.

IN OUR COUNTRY, YOUNG PEOPLE FACE AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE WITHOUT CHRIST. IT REALLY COMES DOWN TO CHOICE. YOUNG MAN WILL YOU CHOOSE CHRIST AND HIS WORD OR WILL YOU PUT THE DECISION OFF UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE AND YOU HAVE MADE ENOUGH WRONG DECISIONS THAT YOUR OPTIONS FOR A FULFILLING LIFE IS EXTREMELY LIMITED OR NON-EXISTENT.

THE PRE-EMINENCE OF WISDOM (JESUS CHRIST)

1 Cor 1:30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEPARATE JESUS CHRIST AND HIS WORD IN THIS PASSAGE. JESUS CHRIST IS THE KING OF HISTORY, HIS WORD RULES HISTORY. JESUS CHRIST IS SOVEREIGN IN THE AFFAIRS OF MAN. WHETHER A YOUNG MAN DECIDES FOR CHRIST OR NOT - JESUS IS SOVEREIGN OVER HIS LIFE. EVEN THE KINGS AND PRESIDENTS ARE UNDER HIS SOVEREIGNTY;

Prov 8:15 By me kings reign and rulers make laws that are just; 16 by me princes govern, and all nobles who rule on earth.

THE DIFFERENCE IS WHETHER OR NOT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO PLACE THE LORD JESUS AND HIS WORD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE. IF JESUS IS FIRST THEN THE PROMISE IS SURE; Prov 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me. 18 With me are riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity.

Prov 8:22 "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23 I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. 24 When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; 25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,

YOU CANNOT SEPARATE JESUS CHRIST FROM HIS WORD. OTHERS HAVE TRIED TO SAY THAT THEY WERE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST BUT DID NOT OBEY HIS WORD;

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?
49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

THESE POOR DELUDED FOLKS *THOUGHT* THAT CALLING JESUS "LORD" WAS ENOUGH. JESUS MAKES THE POINT VERY CLEAR THAT OBEDIENCE TO HIS WORD IS THE MARK OF A TRUE FOLLOWER OF CHRIST - ONE WHO TRULY BUILDS HIS LIFE ON CHRIST AND HIS WORD. BACK TO PROVERBS 8 - - **HERE'S MY POINT - IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A GOOD LIFE, A FULFILLED LIFE YOU MUST BUILD YOUR LIFE ON JESUS CHRIST - HIS WORD.**

Luke 6:47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

IF JESUS AND HIS WORD HAS PRE-EMINENCE IN YOUR LIFE - IF IT HAS FIRST PLACE THEN HIS WORD WILL BUILD IT LIKE THE MAN IN THIS TEXT (VS' 47, 48). THE CHOICE IS SIMPLE: EITHER WE LET JESUS BUILD OUR LIVES OR WE WILL TEAR IT DOWN.

Either we let Jesus build our lives or we will tear it down.

Prov 8:30 **Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, 31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.**

JESUS AND HIS WORD WAS THE CRAFTSMAN AT THE CREATION OF WORLD. HIS WORD STOOD BY THE SIDE OF JESUS. WHEN JESUS SAID "LET THERE BE LIGHT", THE WORD WAS THE CRAFTSMAN. **VERSE 31** IS THE EXCITING PART OF THIS PASSAGE. THE SAME CRAFTSMAN THAT CREATED THE WORLD DELIGHTS IN YOU AND ME. **THE WORD OF JESUS CHRIST WANTS TO BE THE CRAFTSMAN OF YOUR LIFE, BUILDING IT INTO HIS CREATION.**

THE YOUNG MAN WHO BUILDS HIS LIFE ON THE WORD IS BLESSED BY THE LORD

Prov 8:34 **Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.**

THE PROBLEM WITH MOST OF US IS THAT EITHER WE THINK WE ARE THE MASTERS OF OUR LIVES, THAT WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT AND DO NOT NEED THE LORD'S HELP. OR WE JUST DO NOT GIVE THE LORD ANY THOUGHT IN WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR LIVES.

Psalms 127:1 **A song of ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. 2 In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat--for he grants sleep to those he loves.**

HERE'S A REAL IMPORTANT POINT. UNLESS YOU INCLUDE THE LORD IN YOUR PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME. EVERY BIT OF YOUR EFFORTS ARE "VAIN." THE WORD "VAIN" MEANS TO BE WORTHLESS IN THE SENSE OF BEING DESTRUCTIVE. LET ME ILLUSTRATE. REMEMBER ALAN'S LEGO CAR WITH ALL THE PARTS? IF ONE OF THOSE PARTS WERE "VAIN" IN THE SENSE OF THIS VERSE IT WOULD PROBABLY BREAK BECAUSE IT WAS DEFECTIVE. THAT PART OF THE CAR WOULD NO LONGER WORK. NOW IF THAT WERE IN THE STEERING AND IT WERE A REAL CAR YOU COULD KILL YOURSELF IN IT! THAT IS THE SENSE OF "VAIN" IN THIS VERSE. UNLESS YOU LET THE LORD MAKE THE PARTS OF YOUR LIFE, YOUR LIFE IS "VAIN" - DEFECTIVE!

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN I MADE A DECISION TO "CAMP" AT WISDOM'S DOORWAY. I CAN SAY WITHOUT RESERVATION THAT THE LORD AND HIS WORD HAS PROTECTED ME. HE HAS GIVEN ME A WONDERFUL LIFE, A FAMILY - CHILDREN AND EVEN PROVIDED ME WITH A VOCATION.

35 For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD.

FINDING THE LORD AND HIS WORD HAS TRULY GIVEN ME LIFE - I RECEIVE HIS FAVOR EVERY DAY.