

## Proverbs 1:20–33

### Consent to Wisdom While You May

**Monday, August 26, 2024** ▫ **Read Proverbs 1:20–33**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Who calls (v21)? Where? In what manner? Whom does she ask what in v22a? About what does she warn them (v22b–c)? What does she urge them to do (v23a)? What two things does she promise to do (v23b–c)? What does she say that she has done, in contrast to what they have done (v24–25)? What will she do on what occasion (v26–27)? What will those who had rejected wisdom do at that point (v28)? With what results? Why (v29–30)? Without God answering, what will happen to them (v31)? What will their turning away and complacency ultimately do to them (v32)? Who will not be destroyed (v33)?*

**How can we keep from being enticed in the way of the world?** Proverbs 1:20–33 looks forward to the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these fourteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **wisdom itself entices us, as an alternative to the self-destructing enticements of sin.**

**The good enticement,** v20–23. The fatherly warning against the enticement of sinners (cf. v10) now gives way to wisdom's own kind enticements (v20–21). God's wisdom is not only offered to us from our parents and in His assemblies, but even outside, in the square, in the main roads, in the gates of the city. Rather than continue with fools (v22), we are to look to God's wisdom to be our companion, help, and teacher (v23).

**The danger of not consenting,** v24–27. We were warned against consenting to sinners in v10. Now we are warned against disregarding wisdom. It's bad enough to be a fool, but it's self-mocking to have had an opportunity for wisdom and still remained a self-destructing fool. When we hear wisdom, we are not merely to understand it and agree intellectually, but to receive it and live by it.

**Too little, too late,** v28–31. We will not always have opportunity to receive wisdom. If we reject knowledge and counsel and rebuke (v30); if we do not choose the fear of YHWH (v29), there comes a point when we are unable to obtain or find wisdom (v28). The devastating consequence of that is that we are left to ourselves to be "filled to the full with our own fancies." O, dear reader, let us not act as if we will always be able to obtain wisdom later. We do not know when the opportunity will be withdrawn, and we be left sadly to ourselves.

**Life summarized as one great choice,** v32–33. Either we follow what God's wisdom says, or we don't. There is no neutral ground, as complacency is lumped in with turning away in v32. A non-response to God's wisdom is the same as positively rejecting it. The only good option is to be the listener of v33. We must take God's wisdom not merely as good information but as a prescription for our life. Since He rules and overrules in all things, the recipe for dwelling safely and securely, without fear of harm, is to hear and heed the wisdom of God.

**What opportunities do you have right now to obtain wisdom? What opportunities are you declining to take? What opportunities are you squandering? Of which are you taking the best advantage?**

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for appealing to us by Your own wisdom. Forgive us for when we have not readily received and incorporated Your wisdom into our lives. Thank You that You have given us Christ Himself as Your wisdom, both in His perfection being counted for us, and in His own mind being applied to us by His Spirit. Through Him, make us to dwell in safety and security without fear of evil, we ask in His Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs:** ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH508 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Proverbs 1 verses 20-33. These are the words of God. Wisdom calls allowed outside. She raises her voice in the open Square. She cries out in the chief Concourses. The openings of the gates in the city, she speaks her words.

How long you simple ones? Will you love Simplicity? For scorners' Delight in their scorning and fools hate knowledge. Turn at my rebuke. Surely I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused. I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded because you disdain, all my counsel and would have none of my rebuke.

I also will laugh at your Calamity. I will mock when your Terror comes. When your Terror comes like a storm and your destruction comes like a whirlwind when distress and anguish. Come upon you. Then they will call on me but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently but they will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge. And did not choose the fear of Yahweh. They would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke. Therefore, they shall eat the fruit of their own way. And be filled to the full with their own fancies. For the turning away of the simple.

We'll slay them. And the complacency of fools will destroy them. But whoever listens to me, Will dwell safely. And will be secure without fear. Of evil. Amen. No. Since this reading of gods inspired, And Aaron's word. So in verse 10 from last week's passage, The father. The Book of Proverbs Solomon.

Possibly probably to rehoam and others or just. As a Exemplary or the ideal of a father. said my son, if Sinners entice, you Etc. And one of the things that, we saw then in the following verses was different ways. That sin itself, entices us and sinners. Entice us or even other enemies of our soul.

Wouldn't entice us as we fight, not only our flesh, but the world, and the Flesh, and not only the world in the flesh, but also the devil or the Devils. But we, we looked at the different Temptations. There are to sin. Now there's new enticement but it's not sneaky or subtle enticement.

It's public and open enticement God. Displays to us. Here in his word, how even his whole world. Announces to us how important how necessary wisdom is. So that we should be. We should be observing. How things work? Society. And how things work in places of authority. And how things work.

even in business. We should be observing how important and necessary is the wisdom of God and the righteousness of God. so this isn't saying, well, we learned some things from General Revelation and we learned some things from special Revelation. Those things are true. but What this is saying is That the enticement to wisdom, the enticement to the fear of Yahweh was verse 29 picks up again.

You remember, the fear of Yahweh was the beginning of knowledge. Back in verse 7, but the enticement to the fear of Yahweh is all around us. So not only has God created us with the knowledge of him in our hearts. Not only has he redeemed us to be his own Covenant people, so that we belong to him, and These facts.

Should incentivize us. Should entice us. To hear and heed the Lord in his word. But even how the whole world. And life in it and doing business dealings in it and being under his authority in it, all of those things continuously, remind us how much we need wisdom. How dangerous Folly is.

And so, there's this. This good enticement to. Despise being simple and uninstructed. to reject being scornful, and to reject, treating the Lord, and his word and teaching, and preaching. As if they are small unimportant or even inconvenient and undesirable. And so he gives us in verse 20 and 21.

The enticements of wisdom to us and then this pleading with us how long you simple ones? Will you love Simplicity? Corners delight and scorning fools hate knowledge. And there's an invitation. To be conformed to God himself. Wisdom here, personified as a lady. And yet, we know that in, although there's a metaphor of a lady being used here that wisdom is actually a person.

That the second person of the godhead, God, the son, the Lord Jesus who of course, is not a lady and there should be no confusion about that by use of the metaphor, but those who are Crooked in their minds and perverted in their hearts. would twist things.

But wisdom is. Not just a Characteristic of God that he is infinite Eternal and unchangeable in his wisdom. But he gives us his wisdom. In the person of the That we might be the children of the father as those who are indwelt by the spirit. And so, the Living God brings us into his own wisdom.

By conforming us to the Lord Jesus. And this is the Promise. Turn my rebuke. Surely, I will pour out my spirit on you and what does his Spirit do? He says, I will make my words known to you. And so his words, his expression of himself and what he is like and how he thinks He uses.

by his Spirit, he uses those words, he makes them known to us. So that we would be like he is so that we would think like he thinks And so, there's an invitation here to be conformed to our creator and conformed to Our Redeemer. So, All of life, says, you need wisdom but in the actual way of getting wisdom, there's an even greater enticement than what we need for all of life.

And that is the enticement, the incentive, the reward, Of being conformed to the Lord Jesus and brought into fellowship with God, our creator and Our Redeemer. So there's a good enticement. And it's a very public and open enticement. And whereas, he had said, he had warned about the sinner's enticement in verse 10.

My son of Sinners entice, you do not consent. He comes now in verses 24 to 27. And he warns. Against not consenting. To the enticements of wisdom. So, because I have called and you refused. So if you don't listen to God and his word that's like giving God the big no.

Remember we, we said in verse 10 that when sin entices you don't give your consent, give it the big no. Well, if God is Urging us to listen to him, and we don't If God is urging us to learn from him and we don't, then we're really giving God and his word that big no, we're refusing to give our consent and that's very dangerous.

She says, because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded because you disdained, all my counsel and would have none of my rebuke. So if we do all of that, then what's going to happen? Well, What's going to happen verses? 26 and 27 is Calamity Terror storm Whirlwind, distress, anguish.

And when it comes, It will come not merely as consequence. But just desserts. It will be. Exactly what we should have known would happen. Because we are not only finite, but also sinful. But not only what, we should have known would happen. for our constitution. But what we further deserve to have happen.

Because we rejected God and his overtures to us. And so there's actually a greater heinousness to the sins of those who have had. instruction or even opportunity for instruction and have not received it. Or heeded it. There's a greater heinousness or grievousness in their sins. Than there is for those who never had opportunity or never had instruction.

And so, there's A great danger. In failing to consent in having. Access. Into God's word and hearing his word. And rejecting it. So that's the danger of not consenting and that's That's what's being indicated in verse 26. And says, I also will laugh at your Calamity. I will mock when your Terror comes.

it's because those who act that way. Not only should have known that, that's what would happen. But now they doubly deserve for it to happen because they've rejected God's word. Don't reject God's word. Don't sit through family worship and just kind of in one ear out the other wait for it to end.

Give yourself to God and to his word as you worship Him in your secret worship, as you worship him in the family worship, as you worship Him in the public worship. Behold your God. Urging you coaxing, you inviting you alluring you Be conformed to Christ. And to live your life in fellowship, with him, according to his word.

And respond receive it and, and heed it. For if the Calamity comes, it may be too little too late for you. You say, oh, if I had only listened And the calamity comes on, you like that. And there's a oh, if I had only listened that isn't I really wish I loved God and enjoyed him.

There's Wow, it's really painful to not love God and not enjoy him. If I had only listened, I wouldn't have this pain right now. But the person who's been hardened against the Lord, Should not think that they will suddenly be able to listen later. And the person who has not taken their opportunities.

To learn and hear from the Lord, should not assume that God will give them opportunities later. So if you reject his word now and you come into a situation where you have difficulty and pain suffering trouble, as a result of having rejected his word, you might not be able to receive it later.

You might not even have access to it later. And that's what we hear about in verses 28-31. Then they will call on me, but I will not answer. They will seek me diligently but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose. The fear of Yahweh, they would have none of my counsel and despised my every rebuke.

Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way. And be filled to the full with their own fancies. So, if you're squandered opportunity from God, To grow in the knowledge of him to belong to him and be conformed to Christ by his word. And you later regret. Some of the results of that you may be left to yourself.

To eat the fruit of your own way. You may be left to yourself, to be filled to the full with your own fancies. Now, I've had the sad experience. In the ministry. Of especially hearing this sort. I've, I've heard it from every age group don't get me wrong. But especially of hearing this sort of thing from The kind of 18.

2. Your old range of Covenant children who had looked good while they were in the church. but they did not have Their life and interaction with the Lord shaped by his word. And later when the consequences started piling up and even spiritual consequences, They're full of their own fancies.

And sometimes very discouraged. in being so unable to trust in God unable to obey him and walk with him. Knowing that they should, but just uninterested not caring to. Even though they know that they should and then on the other hand, those who still profess that they are Christians but they've rejected all sin theology and they're full of Weird worldly.

Humanistic thinking and a God that they have not only recreated in their own image but made a slave to themselves. and their prejudices against Truth, and righteousness and and godliness. It is a dreadful result. To eat the fruit of your own way and to be quote, unquote, verse 31, filled to the full With your own fancies.

So that instead of knowing the Lord, knowing truth knowing reality. Loving righteousness, loving godliness. You would know yourself. And you'd be full of your own false morality. And false spirituality. And not even know it. The consequence at the end of verse 31 is actually worse. Then the Calamity Terror storm Whirlwind distress.

Anguish. In verses 26 and 27. And so do not miss your chance. At wisdom. You have this great. As you are presented with the Lord himself, in his word, You can either turn

away verse 32 or you can listen to him. Verse 33. The Turning of the way of the simple will slay them, the complacency of the fools will destroy them.

And so rather than turning away, listen, those are the only two options. If you are there and not hearing and hearing learning and growing responding to him, he defines that as turning away. And that turning away will destroy you verse 32. But the other Horn of the Dilemma, the other option, the other side of the coin.

Is to listen to him. And if you listen to him, you will dwell in safety and be secure without fear of evil. Does that mean no one will ever attack you or harm you in a temporal Earthly sense? No, But it means that absolutely everything must work together for your good.

To give you God himself, and there is nothing more safe or secure. Or Fearless of evil. Than to have God himself. God is for me, who can be against me? And God, I put my trust in him, and God whose word I praise. What can man do to me if God is for us, who can be against us?

And so, There is this one. Great. All of life. Summarized as this one, great choice in verse 32 and 33 We have the word of God. Are we going to listen to him? Or are we going to fail to do so? And Be destroyed. God, give you To respond to him.

This whole world urges you to respond to him. And he gives you his word. To teach you so that you will be his

Father, thank you for this part of your word, please Lord. Give us. See how you entice us invite us to kindness with which you woo us to yourself. And give us to receive your word and change our thinking, and have our Desires shaped and Pleasures. decided by your word.

Oh, don't let us, don't let us. Mindlessly. Or cold-heartedly. Reject fail to eat your word. Don't let us end up in the terror or the Calamity. Don't let us come to a place where we no longer. Have opportunity. To turn to. Oh, have mercy. We pray. And glorify Yourself by giving us that safety and Security and fearlessness.

That comes by belonging to you. We ask through Christ. Amen.