

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#22) Eight Reasons Why Listen To Reason: #4: 8:12-21

#4 Verses 12-21: She Speaks Prudently

Verses 12-14: One who accepts God's Wisdom, will also receive "prudence" (critical thinking), "knowledge" (factual insight), and "discretion" (ability to use, good judgment). One basic judgment underlies all: reverence for God means rejection of "evil" illustrated by "pride" (opposite of humility, [Proverbs 29:23](#)), "arrogance" (inflated opinion of personal power), "evil way" (determination to do wrong), and "perverse mouth" (advocating what is in their heart). No one can love God and love evil. Jesus said: "'No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" ([Matthew 6:24](#)). Paul taught: "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good" ([Romans 12:9](#)). God offers "counsel" (good advice), "sound wisdom" (good thinking), "understanding" (awareness of choices), and "strength" (ability to stand with decisions).

Verses 15-16: Since all authority is with God, then every human government should recognize God's Wisdom, for with it all layers of government would work: kings, rulers, princes, nobles, and judges. Jesus Christ reminded even the Roman Governor that he "would have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above" ([John 19:11](#)).

Verses 17-21: To love Wisdom is to be loved by Wisdom ([John 14:21](#)), and diligent searchers "will find me." Jesus Christ said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" ([Matthew 7:7-8](#)). The value Wisdom brings to a person's life is not just "riches and honor," but riches that last because of "righteousness." Earth's "gold" and "silver" cannot mean more than Wisdom's "fruit" (benefits) and "revenue" (worth).

Wisdom leads only in what is "right" and "just" which brings "wealth" and "treasures." This is illustrated in Daniel's life, for after he had taken his stand on his faith and used his miraculous gift to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he prospered. "Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The king answered Daniel, and said, 'Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.' Then the king

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promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon” ([Daniel 2:46-48](#)). No empire, kingdom, country, or territory lasts long and prospers well that rejects God’s Wisdom!

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