

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
Commentary by Michael Sigler
March 4, 2012

A Foundation for Life

Read Proverbs 8:22-35

Key verse: “For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 8:35)

The God who created the universe and *us* knows how our lives work best. And God has a plan for each of our lives. God’s plan, His wisdom for living, should be the foundation on which we build our lives.

This foundation of godly wisdom begins with a reverence for God and a desire to please God: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7). The foolish person rejects God and His plans; the wise person seeks to know God and follow His way.

In Proverbs 8:22-31, wisdom is personified as God’s plan unfolding from before the creation of the world and seen in all of God’s creation: *“The Lord brought me [wisdom] forth as the first of His works, before His deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began” (8:22-23).*

The beauty, majesty, and intricate design of nature are evidences of God’s wisdom, His plans unfolding: *“When there were no oceans, I [wisdom] was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water, before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth” (8:24-25).*

For people in the time of Proverbs, life centered on farming and agriculture. So, in their daily lives, God’s wisdom was seen in the way He designed “*the earth*” and “*its fields*” to provide sustenance and livelihood (8:26). God’s wisdom could also be seen in the way God “*set the heavens in place,*” “*established the clouds above,*” and “*gave the sea its boundary*” (8:27-29).

God’s wisdom is personified in 8:30-31 as like a craftsman who, having participated in the creation of the world and of humanity, is “*filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in His presence, rejoicing in His whole world and delighting in mankind.*”

Next, having described creation as evidence of God’s wise plan unfolding, the writer of Proverbs urges readers to pursue godly wisdom for living. The reward, according to verse 35, is nothing less than a blessed life—physical, psychological, social, and spiritual: “*Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not ignore it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord*” (8:33-35). *(continued on next page)*

The One who made the world and who made us knows how our lives work best. God has a plan for each of our lives. By following the teachings of Scripture and the leading of the Holy Spirit, we can walk in wisdom and experience life abundant and eternal. We would be wise to do so.

Thanks be to God!

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