

Sermon Series: Wisdom for all people—1/7/2001—Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Title: “The Beginning of Wisdom”

Text: Proverbs 1: 29-33 & 9:7-12

Introduction: **Illus.: WHERE IS THE WISDOM IN ALIEN INSURANCE**

Theme: Wisdom does not come from more knowledge or more years but has its beginning from a living relationship with the Lord.

A case study of contrast between the foolish person and the wise person

- **Characteristics of the foolish (mockers)**

A. **print and read 9: 7-8a & 1: 29-32**

B. **Kills the messenger to get rid of the message**

1. *They refuse my advice. . .despised my every warning Prov 1: 30*
2. The idolatry of presumptiveness
3. The deadliness of “lone ranger Christians”

C. **Tears down rather than builds up**

1. Wise in their own eyes and with their own words
2. *“Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.” 9: 7*
3. *Do not be wise in your own eyes. Prov. 3:7*

D. **False pride which leads to eternal stupidity and destruction**

1. They reap temporal disasters and downturns
 1. *“They will eat the fruit of their lifestyle. They will be stuffed with their own schemes.” Prov. 1: 31*
 2. *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.” Gal 6:7*
2. They will endure eternal separation from God’s blessing (vs. 5-7)

- **Characteristics of the wise**

A. **Print and read 9: 8b-11b & 1: 33**

B. **Receives “warning” as an act of love not aggression (vs. 8)**

1. **ILLUS.: WATCH THE WARNING LIGHT PANEL**
2. *“Wounds from a friend can be trusted.” Prov. 27: 6*

3. Understands that his highest treasure is eternal life in Christ and unchecked sin and lifestyle can rob that from him

C. **Wisdom gives birth to wisdom (vs. 9)**

1. Being teachable and leadable is part of being humbly wise
2. **ILLUS.: Always speak as one who learns and not as one who knows. Citation: Molinos**
3. Receives teaching and has a thirst for more—wants to learn God’s good, acceptable, and perfect will Rom12:2
4. *“For to everyone who has shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away.” Matthew 25: 29*

D. **Will realize a longer, more fulfilled life**

1. As a direct result of the promise of God
2. As an indirect result because of less stress-filled, safer, fear/guiltless lifestyle

Steps toward being a “God-fearer” and the path of wisdom

- **“Fully” be devoted to the Lord Jesus**

1. **ILL.: COMMITMENT—“I’m done looking!”**

2. Because he was fully devoted to you, gave up his life for you, and now calls you “his friend” Joh15:14

- **“Always” make it your aim to be pleasing to him**

1. Seeking how we can align our will with God’s not making his fit ours
2. **ILL.: MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST**

- **“Passionately” pursue obedience**

1. Begin with “listening” to the Lord
2. Present your body to righteous not wicked situations.(Romans 6: 12-13)
3. **ILLUS.: PRESENTING OURSELVES TO EVIL OR GOOD**
4. Make the most the time because the days are evil (Ephesians 5: 15-16)
5. Replace foolish activities with wisdom building activities

a. *It's not right that dirty stories, foolish talk, or obscene jokes should be mentioned among you either. Instead, give thanks. Light produces everything that is good, that has God's approval, and that is true. Ephes. 5:4, 9*

ALIEN INSURANCE

If you think you might be abducted by aliens someday, you can always take out an insurance policy. No joke. For \$156 a year, a London company (called Goodfellow Rebecca Ingrams Pearson) will insure you in the event you're nabbed by E.T. If you're "merely" abducted by aliens, they'll pay you \$312,000. But if you're abducted and you're partly eaten, you'll get a whopping \$468,000. (What a deal!) There's a catch, of course: You've got to prove it really happened. So don't get any out-of-this-world ideas, OK?

WATCH THE INSTRUMENT PANEL

An airplane pilot is not to trust his own instincts in a storm, but to trust the instrument panel. Instincts can be wrong if he experiences vertigo. Just as a pilot can get so jostled around that he loses his sense of up and down, we can get so jostled around by the philosophy of this world that we lose our sense of right and wrong. We have an instrument panel that is more reliable than our own feelings.

MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST

The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else. *Citation: Oswald Chambers*

PRESENTING OURSELVES TO EVIL OR GOOD

The Winter 1991 issue of the *University of Pacific Review* offers a chilling description of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster:

There were two electrical engineers in the control room that night, and the best thing that could be said for what they were doing is they were "playing around" with the machine. They were performing what the Soviets later described as an unauthorized experiment. They were trying to see how long a turbine would "free wheel" when they took the power off it.

Now, taking the power off that kind of a nuclear reactor is a difficult, dangerous thing to do, because these reactors are very unstable in their lower ranges. In order to get the reactor down to that kind of power, where they could perform the test they were interested in performing, they had to override manually six separate computer-driven alarm systems.

One by one the computers would come up and say, "Stop! Dangerous! Go no further!" And one by one, rather than shutting off the experiment, they shut off the alarms and kept going. You know the results: nuclear fallout that was recorded all around the world, from the largest industrial accident ever to occur in the world.

The instructions and warnings in Scripture are just as clear. We ignore them at our own peril, and tragically, at the peril of innocent others

Proverbs 1:29-33

[29] Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord. [30] They refused my advice. They despised my every warning. [31] They will eat the fruit of their lifestyle. They will be stuffed with their own schemes. [32] "Gullible people kill themselves because of their turning away. Fools destroy themselves because of their indifference. [33] But whoever listens to me will live without worry and will be free from the dread of disaster."

Proverbs 9:7-12

[7] Whoever corrects a mocker receives abuse. Whoever warns a wicked person gets hurt. [8] Do not warn a mocker, or he will hate you. Warn a wise person, and he will love you. [9] Give {advice} to a wise person, and he will become even wiser. Teach a righteous person, and he will learn more. [10] The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. [11] You will live longer because of me, and years will be added to your life. [12] If you are wise, your wisdom will help you. If you mock, you alone will be held responsible.