

# STREET WISE

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1986 (Rev. 96)

Lesson #10

Proverbs 1:20-33

**Introduction:** This section reveals the confrontation that a wise individual will face in everyday life. The forceful verbs used in this section create a climate of urgency. The whole issue of being street smart centers on individual choice within the situations of life.

## **1. THE COVERAGE OF POOR JUDGMENT** (Where is poor judgment exhibited?)

Solomon reveals three public places where wisdom is needed in communities.

A. Proverbs 1:20 = “in the streets” (areas of socialization)

B. Proverbs 1:21 = “chief places of concourse” (areas of business or commerce)

C. Proverbs 1:21 = “in the opening of the gate” (areas of greeting and areas of justice)

"The location of this exhortation is in the public places. . . suggesting that wisdom is readily available for the business of living; it is for the common person, not the scholar exclusively.

These places were the centers for all activities: daily affairs, employment, and even playing."

(Proverbs by Allen P. Ross, in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 910)

## **2. THE CONTACTS WITH THE UNWISE** (Who will the wise individual meet?)

Solomon gives three characters in great need of wisdom in Proverbs 1:22.

	Individual's Needing Wisdom	Quality Opposing Wisdom
A.	“Simple ones” (Hebrew “petayim”) (naive)	Love of simplicity
B.	“Scorners” (mockers, defiant, free thinkers)	Delight in scorning
C.	“Fools” (Hebrews “kesilim”) (morally insensative)	Hate knowledge

## **3. THE CONDITIONS IN LIFE NEEDING WISDOM** (Why is wisdom so important?)

Everyone will experience situations in life that will demand wisdom.

A. Proverbs 1:26 = calamity (disaster)

B. Proverbs 1:26-27 = fear comes (terror)

C. Proverbs 1:27 = destruction (disaster)

D. Proverbs 1:27 = distress

E. Proverbs 1:27 = anguish (trouble)

## **4. THE CALL OF WISDOM TO THOSE IN NEED** (How evident is wisdom's desire?)

Wisdom seeks to get the attention of those in the community.

A. Proverbs 1:20 = raises her voice

B. Proverbs 1:21 = she cries out

C. Proverbs 1:21 = makes her speech

Summary notes:

1. Wisdom is present or available to all.
2. Wisdom is seeking those to follow.
3. Wisdom is desirous to be used.

**5. THE CHOICE IN RELATIONSHIP TO WISDOM** (What are the responses to wisdom?)

Solomon reveals the two responses people will use.

A. Response one: the “positive” wisdom will be accepted

The result will be:

Proverbs 1:23 = a “turn” at wisdom’s reproof

Proverbs 1:23 = a “harkening” to wisdom’s voice

B. Response two: the “negative” wisdom will be refused

The result will be:

Proverbs 1:24 = wisdom will be refused

Proverbs 1:24 = wisdom will not be regarded

Proverbs 1:25 = wisdom will be hated

Proverbs 1:25 = wisdom will not be chosen

Proverbs 1:29 = wisdom will not be accepted in council

Proverbs 1:30 = wisdom will be despised

**6. THE CONSEQUENCES FOR REJECTING WISDOM**(What happens without wisdom?)

There are at least seven major consequences associated with rejecting wisdom.

A. Proverbs 1:26 = wisdom will laugh

B. Proverbs 1:26 = wisdom will mock

C. Proverbs 1:28 = wisdom will not answer

D. Proverbs 1:28 = wisdom will not be found

E. Proverbs 1:31 = wisdom will allow you to eat your own fruit

F. Proverbs 1:31 = wisdom will allow you to be filled with your own devices

G. Proverbs 1:32 = wisdom will allow you to be destroyed

"There is grave danger, however, in disregarding the invitation. If the call has been extended for some time, 'How long?' then the warning is given for a prolonged refusal. The punishment for such indifference and antagonism takes the form of retribution."

(Proverbs by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 910)

How does Galatians 6:7 relate to these seven items?

**7. THE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RECEIVING WISDOM** (What does wisdom give?)

There are at least four basic rewards for turning to wisdom.

A. Proverbs 1:23 = I will pour out my spirit

B. Proverbs 1:23 = I will make knowledge by words

C. Proverbs 1:33 = I will dwell in safety

D. Proverbs 1:33 = I will give peace from evil

"The expressions used suggest a permanent, settled condition free from the sense of danger or dread. Such is the contrast between the false security of the wicked and the true and lasting peace of the righteous."

(Proverbs by Allen P. Ross, in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, page 910)

**Conclusion:** "These contrasts between the consequences of folly (1:32) and of wisdom (1:33) set the tone for the rest of the book."

(Proverbs by Sid S. Buzzell, in The Bible Knowledge Commentary, page 909)