

“A PORTRAIT OF WISDOM”

Paul Goebel

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PROVERBS 1:20-33

- 20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street,
in the markets she raises her voice;
- 21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
- 22 “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?”
- 23 If you turn at my reproof,
behold, I will pour out my spirit to you;
I will make my words known to you.
- 24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,
- 25 because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
- 26 I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when terror strikes you,
- 27 when terror strikes you like a storm
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
- 28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
- 29 Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
- 30 would have none of my counsel
and despised all my reproof,
- 31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way,
and have their fill of their own devices.
- 32 For the simple are killed by their turning away,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
- 33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure
and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Notes:

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Questions:

1. In what ways can a person be naïve about living a godly life? How can ignorance make us vulnerable to temptation?
2. What does it mean to be *morally* foolish? How is this different than *intellectual* foolishness?
3. In what ways do people make a mockery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Why is “The Scoffer” in a more dangerous spiritual state than that of “The Simple” and “The Fool”?
4. How does God judge “The Simple,” “The Fool,” and “The Scoffer”? How are these portraits similar? How are they different?
5. What are some characteristics of “The Wise”? How does a person cultivate these characteristics?