



A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION

FOR PREPARATION

[*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*](#)
Smith (1867)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

-Thomas Cranmer (1662)

AS OUR FOUNDATION

Proverbs 9 (NIV)

Invitations of Wisdom and Folly

⁹ *Wisdom has built her house;
she has set up[a] its seven pillars.*

² *She has prepared her meat and
mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.*

³ *She has sent out her servants, and
she calls
from the highest point of the city,*

⁴ *"Let all who are simple come to my
house!"*

*To those who have no sense she
says,*

⁵ *"Come, eat my food
and drink the wine I have mixed.*

⁶ *Leave your simple ways and you
will live;
walk in the way of insight."*

⁷ *Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.*

⁸ *Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you;
rebuke the wise and they will love you.*

⁹ *Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still;
teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.*

¹⁰ *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

¹¹ *For through wisdom[b] your days will be many,
and years will be added to your life.*

¹² *If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you;
if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.*

¹³ *Folly is an unruly woman;
she is simple and knows nothing.*

¹⁴ *She sits at the door of her house,
on a seat at the highest point of the city,*

¹⁵ *calling out to those who pass by,
who go straight on their way,*

¹⁶ *"Let all who are simple come to my house!"
To those who have no sense she says,*

¹⁷ *"Stolen water is sweet;
food eaten in secret is delicious!"*

¹⁸ *But little do they know that the dead are there,
that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.*

TO KEEP IN MIND

In our culture today, we hear from two competing voices: wisdom & folly. We need to be disciplined and discerning on which way we choose:

- Truth or error?
- Wisdom or tragic endings?

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- While our need is most prevalent now, we've ALWAYS needed wisdom and order from God – and the heart and courage to follow him as well.

- Take the time to see Proverbs in a different light. Go through the book verse-by-verse, write it out, and whatever the topic was – write it at the top of the page. Once finished, you'll have the entire book of Proverbs re-written by theme / topic. It becomes fascinating to read through the book in that way.
- When we're at the very cusp of deciding which type of person we're going to become (e.g., young people), decisions are crucial. We are going to choose – by the decisions we make – paths that are unwise or wise, either folly or wisdom and understanding.
- In our culture today, we hear from two competing voices: wisdom & folly. We need to be disciplined and discerning on which way we choose: truth or error, wisdom or tragic endings?
- Without God, there is no wisdom. And there can be no wisdom without God's presence, his character, and his speaking.
- In Proverbs 8, wisdom is seen as beautiful, as glorious, and as powerful. It perfectly describes the person of Jesus Christ.

KEY QUESTIONS

- Are we truly living a life of discernment? The evil of folly is not that it is not compelling – because it's extremely compelling – but the end of it is death.
- Are we listening to the wrong word or message?
- Am I teaching and modeling well – to those around me – what "the good life" truly means?
- Have I decided which type of person I'm going to become – each and every day.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK

- Lift up our leaders – in Washington D.C. and our state capitols.
- Pray for the influencers in the lives of the young people around us – not only for their teachers, but also for celebrities who speak into their lives.
- Pray that these influencers – especially secular influencers – would come to know Christ.
- For ourselves – that we might have ears to hear the voice and will of God.
- That we would reach out to those around us and be a voice of wisdom.



- *That we would not listen to the Evil One – to folly – because it is so compelling.*
- *May we be so full of the presence and wisdom of God that he'll use us.*
- *Guide us to people we can help, build-up, and speak into their lives.*
- *For the key targets of folly – our young people – that they would see and know the consequences.*
- *Pray for teachers – in Christian and secular schools – that you'd stir their hearts to speak truth.*
- *For our world – amidst chaos and uncertainty – that God would pierce the fog with the light of His presence.*

BENEDICTION

- *Closing Prayer*

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Thomas Cranmer (1662)

- *Closing Worship*

- [When Morning Gilds the Skies](#) – Caswall (1854)

- Doxology – [Praise God, from whom all blessings flow](#) – Thomas Ken (1674)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Colson Center's National Time of Guided Prayer](#)
- [The Colson Center for Christian Worldview](#)
- [BreakPoint](#)
- [Wilberforce Weekend '21](#)
- [Josh Bales](#)



*True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance.
It is far deeper than that. It is spiritual transaction with
the Creator of Heaven and Earth. - Charles Spurgeon*



COLSONCENTER
FOR CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW