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## **The Wisdom-Folly Comparison**

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**Proverbs 9:1-18** <sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house; she has carved out her seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table. <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her maidservants; she calls out from the heights of the city. <sup>4</sup>“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” she says to him who lacks judgment. <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat my bread and drink the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Leave your folly behind, and you will live; walk in the way of understanding.” <sup>7</sup>He who corrects a mocker brings shame on himself; he who rebukes a wicked man taints himself. <sup>8</sup>Do not rebuke a mocker, or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. <sup>9</sup>Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning. <sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. <sup>11</sup>For through wisdom your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. <sup>12</sup>If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage; but if you scoff, you alone will bear the consequences. <sup>13</sup>The woman named Folly is loud; she is naive and knows nothing. <sup>14</sup>She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the heights of the city, <sup>15</sup>calling out to those who pass by, who make their paths straight. <sup>16</sup>“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” she says to him who lacks judgment. <sup>17</sup>“Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is tasty!” <sup>18</sup>But they do not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol. (BSB)

1. Here are the details of this passage.
  - A. Wisdom is based upon a **divine** foundation. V.1
  - B. Wisdom extends her **hospitality** to all who want it. V.2-5
  - C. The **condition** for receiving Wisdom is repentance and change. V.6
  - D. Wisdom is called for in expressing opinions to the **unwilling** to listen. V.7-8
  - E. Wisdom is best used on those who will allow themselves to be **instructed**. V.9
  - F. Wisdom has great **benefits**. V. 10-12
  - G. Folly is **personified** as a rude, ill-mannered woman. V.13
  - H. Folly **ridicules** the wise. V.14-15
  - I. Folly **lies** to those who will listen. V.16-17
  - J. Folly’s home is a death **trap**. V.18
2. What can we learn from this passage?
  - A. We must have a godly **foundation** to our moral behavior. Scripture is the key!
  - B. We must be listening to the **right** voices in our heads.
  - C. We must be wise in expressing our **opinions** to others.
  - D. We must live for the **big** picture of what God is wanting to do through us.