

Proverbs 9 is, of course, an extended metaphor – an allegory. Wisdom is like a wealthy woman inviting guests to a feast. Who embodies the person of Lady Wisdom in their relationship to you?

How (in what situations or with which people) have you encountered Woman Folly?

No matter which 'invitation' you accept, your decision will result in both pleasure and pain. How do the pleasure and pain from dining at Lady Wisdom's house differ from the pleasure and pain one finds at Woman Folly's abode?

What helps you to choose wisdom?

Something to do
NOW OR LATER

Reflect more on Proverbs 9 v. 6.

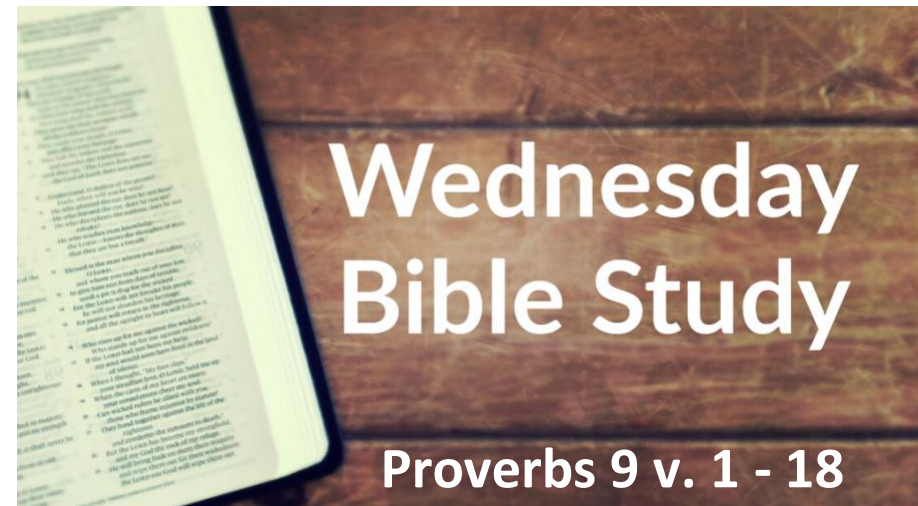
What attitudes or habits do you have that might be classified as 'simple'?

(A space to make notes)

Make this a matter of prayer and reflection, asking God to reveal true wisdom to you.

(A space to make notes)

Salendine Nook Baptist Church



For the purposes of our Bible Studies we will be using A Life Builder Bible Study. Our Theme for these studies is: **Proverbs (Learning To Live Wisely)**. The studies were originally written by William Mouser, but we will be modifying them in order that they become more usable for both home study and Church study.

These studies give us the opportunity to study the Bible in a greater depth and to reflect on what it is saying to us.

If you will be doing the studies from home, it is suggested that you do the study on a Wednesday morning, for an hour, starting at 10.30am. Get yourself a tea or coffee, a Bible, pen and paper (for any notes you want to make) and begin studying. Hope that you enjoy it!

Pastor Ian

CONTEXT: There are 'how to' books on virtually every activity under the sun. We can pick up or polish any number of new skills that contributes to success in our careers, relationships or finances. But one book of the Bible – **PROVERBS** – specialises in real wisdom for all of life. Understanding it will give us direction that is practical, godly and shrewd, and will bless us richly.

Some Thoughts To Help You While You Study

The purpose of the study is to hear and accept Lady Wisdom's invitation to become wise.

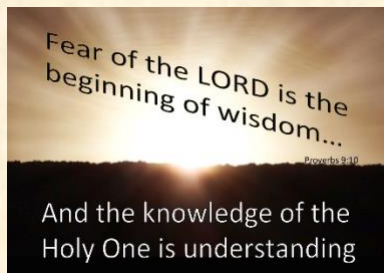
Lady Wisdom's feast appears quite lavish, not only in its venue (possibly a palace setting), but also in terms of its menu. Woman Folly's feast less so – the only things mentioned are bread and water!

Both invitations mirror one another at one point – the persons specifically addressed in the invitations.

Certainly no one would invite people to a feast if those invited were going to act rudely or hatefully toward the host or hostess! But this is exactly the kind of response that Lady Wisdom says a mocker will give to someone who tries to correct them.

Think through what your understanding of Wisdom is, and then think through what your understanding of Folly is.

Here is some space for you to think these answers through. Why not make a note of your understanding:



STUDY 1 – THE CHOICE

An invitation to dinner is always welcome, until you get invitations to two different dinners, each held at the same time as the other. Then you have to decide which one to accept and which one to decline. No doubt you'll make your decision based on many factors – the reputation of the host and hostess, the prospects of a good time, your own tastes in people and food.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: *What difficulties do you have in facing choices? Is it ever a struggle for you to say no?*

Proverbs 9 presents the dilemma of deciding between two dinner invitations. But these are no ordinary dinners, and the invitations come from no ordinary hostesses. Which one you attend will largely determine your health, your wealth and your happiness for the rest of your life.

Read Proverbs 9 v. 1 - 18

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

Describe Lady Wisdom's feast, then describe Woman Folly's feast.

Do Lady Wisdom and Woman Folly invite the same people or different people to their feasts?

Do you think you're among those specifically invited to Lady Wisdom's dinner?

Do you think Lady Wisdom would welcome the mocker of Proverbs 7 v. 7 – 8? Why or why not?

What resources does each hostess have to offer her guests?

Which hostess appears to offer the most pleasure to her guests?

What does Proverbs 9 v. 7 – 12 tell us about how Lady Wisdom imparts benefits to her guests?

After reading Proverbs 9 v. 10, do you think that knowledge and understanding must be explicitly Judeo – Christian in order to be genuine? Why or why not?