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## Proverbs 8:32-36

32. “Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, for blessed are they who keep my ways.

33. Heed instruction and be wise, and do not neglect *it*.

34. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorposts.

35. For he who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.

36. But he who sins against me injures himself; all those who hate me love death.”

This statement comes from the personification of wisdom we find in the first several chapters of Proverbs. Earlier in chapter 8 Wisdom speaks and addresses her readers. The chapter begins: “Does not wisdom call, and understanding lift up her voice? On top of the heights beside the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates, at the opening to the city, at the entrance of the doors she cries out; ‘To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men.’” Verse 12 has wisdom specifically identify herself: “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion . . . .”

So as we read verse 34 of today’s passage; “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates,

waiting at my doorposts,” we understand that Wisdom, the voice of Proverbs, would invite us to read daily from this book of the Bible. A daily dose of Proverbs for the New Testament Christian insures our prayers for wisdom will be answered.

Without any coincidence, we note that the book of Proverbs has been deliberately divided into 31 chapters. Since each month contains 31 days at most, a convenient strategy for reading in Proverbs daily would be to read a chapter each day. If one reads the chapter corresponding to the date, he will read through the book of Proverbs each month.

In today’s passage, Wisdom promises a blessing on the person who will listen daily to the Proverbs. This may be accomplished by reading out loud, so the word enters through your ears as well as your eyes. Since the Scripture cannot be broken, and the One who inspired Proverbs cannot lie; a sure way to God’s blessing would be to listen to the Proverbs daily.

Also Wisdom instructs us not only to watch and listen at her gates daily, but also to be “waiting at my doorposts.” Patience, allowing the Proverbs to germinate and grow in one’s character, instills this wisdom in us.

Jesus Himself was a personification of God’s wisdom. He often quoted the Proverbs verbatim and used examples in His teaching directly from Proverbs. If you are familiar with Jesus’ (our Lord’s) teachings in the gospel accounts, check out Proverbs chapter 25. Most all

of the material in this chapter is repeated and applied by Jesus in His life and teaching, as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Especially in the sermon on the mount.

James guides us to wisdom in the New Testament in his book, Chapter 1, verses 5 and 6: “But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting . . . .” To ask in faith would certainly include a daily hearing from the book of Proverbs! Start today.