

Proverbs 8

¹ Does not wisdom call out?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

² At the top of the elevated places along the way,
at the intersection of the paths she takes her stand;

³ beside the gates opening into the city,
at the entrance of the doorways she cries out:

⁴ "To you, O people, I call out,
and my voice calls to all mankind.

⁵ You who are naive, discern wisdom!
And you fools, understand discernment!

⁶ Listen, for I will speak excellent things,
and my lips will utter what is right.

⁷ For my mouth speaks truth,
and my lips hate wickedness.

⁸ All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing in them twisted or crooked.

⁹ All of them are clear to the discerning
and upright to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰ Receive my instruction rather than silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹ For wisdom is better than rubies,
and desirable things cannot be compared to her.

¹² "I, wisdom, live with prudence,
and I find knowledge and discretion.

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil;
I hate arrogant pride and the evil way
and perverse utterances.

¹⁴ Counsel and sound wisdom belong to me;
I possess understanding and might.

¹⁵ Kings reign by means of me,
and potentates decree righteousness;

¹⁶ by me princes rule,
as well as nobles and all righteous judges.

¹⁷ I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.

¹⁸ Riches and honor are with me,
long-lasting wealth and righteousness.

¹⁹My fruit is better than the purest gold,
and what I produce is better than choice silver.
²⁰I walk in the path of righteousness,
in the pathway of justice,
²¹that I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth,
and that I may fill their treasuries.
²²The LORD created me as the beginning of his works,
before his deeds of long ago.
²³From eternity I was appointed,
from the beginning, from before the world existed.
²⁴When there were no deep oceans I was born,
when there were no springs overflowing with water;
²⁵before the mountains were set in place—
before the hills—I was born,
²⁶before he made the earth and its fields,
or the beginning of the dust of the world.

²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he marked out the horizon over the face of the deep,
²⁸when he established the clouds above,
when the fountains of the deep grew strong,
²⁹when he gave the sea his decree
that the waters should not pass over his command,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
³⁰then I was beside him as a master craftsman,
and I was his delight day by day,
rejoicing before him at all times,
³¹rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth,
and delighting in its people.
³²“So now, children, listen to me;
blessed are those who keep my ways.
³³Listen to my instruction so that you may be wise,
and do not neglect it.