

INVOCATION:

Gracious Lord, we thank You once again for allowing us to gather in Your house today to worship You. We set aside our worries, our stresses, and our distractions to focus on You. We thank You for the relative health and safety that You have given us so that we may be here. We bring honor, glory, and praise to You. In the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, Amen.

WELCOME:

Welcome to Sappony. We're glad that you're here. As a reminder, we will not be passing offering plates. If you have brought your gift to the Lord, you may place it in the plate on your way out the door. We do ask that you maintain appropriate distancing as we continue the worship service this morning. Guidelines for events where singing will take place suggest ten feet of distance between participants.

HYMN # 502 Open My Eyes, That I May See

HYMN # 514 When We All Get to Heaven

HYMN # 516 When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

PASTORAL PRAYER:

NAMB Missionaries: Ebbie Davis (The Hill Church, San Diego)

Martha for the Homeless

Beirut Explosion

Upcoming Elections

Katie: Being trained for SE Asia.

SCRIPTURE READING: Proverbs 9:1-18 (ESV)

Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn her seven pillars.

**2**She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.

**3**She has sent out her young women to call  
from the highest places in the town,

**4**“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

To him who lacks sense she says,

**5**“Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

**6**Leave your simple ways,<sup>a</sup> and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

**7**Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse,  
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.

**8**Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;  
reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

**9**Give instruction<sup>b</sup> to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

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

**11**For by me your days will be multiplied,  
and years will be added to your life.

**12**If you are wise, you are wise for yourself;  
if you scoff, you alone will bear it.

### ***The Way of Folly***

**13**The woman Folly is loud;  
she is seductive<sup>c</sup> and knows nothing.

**14**She sits at the door of her house;  
she takes a seat on the highest places of the town,

**15**calling to those who pass by,  
who are going straight on their way,

**16**“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”  
And to him who lacks sense she says,

**17**“Stolen water is sweet,  
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

**18**But he does not know that the dead<sup>d</sup> are there,  
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

## INTRODUCTION:

Presentation of Bible to Grace.

## SCRIPTURE MESSAGE:

### 1. THE CALL OF WISDOM (9:1-12)

- a. Wisdom is presented as a queen inviting everyone to a feast.
- b. (9:1) Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.
  - i. There is enough room in this house for everyone!
  - ii. Not everyone will come.
- c. (9:2) She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.
  - i. Marriage supper?
  - ii. The banquet is fully prepared.
- d. (9:3-4) She has sent out her young women to call out from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
  - i. Wisdom calls to people to come in.
  - ii. Most people don't want to be called simple.
- e. (9:5-6) "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."
  - i. Wisdom is much more than knowledge. Wisdom is not only *knowing* what to do but also *doing* it.
  - ii. (James 1:22) But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

### 2. CORRECTION

- a. How a fool receives correction
  - i. (9:7-8) Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a

scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

- b. How a wise person receives correction
  - i. (9:9) Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.
    - 1. Note the connection between wisdom and righteousness.
    - 2. It takes great humility to keep on learning.
    - 3. Surround yourself by people smarter than you.
  - ii. (9:10) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
    - 1. No one can be truly wise who does not fear the Lord.
- c. (9:11-12) For by me (wisdom) your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.
  - i. This is true in life (Darwin Awards)
  - ii. This is also true in eternity.
- d. But wisdom is not the only one calling out for the simple.

### 3. THE CALL OF FOLLY (9:13-18)

- a. (9:13-16a) The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the high places of the town, calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"
  - i. Note that she uses the same call as Wisdom. Folly will try to imitate Wisdom.

- ii. She tries to take people off the straight path.
  - b. (9:16b-18) And to him who lacks sense she says, “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.
    - i. She tries to seduce people into unrighteous deeds.
    - ii. All sin leads to death. The people that you participate in sins with are also dead.
- 4. Will you choose wisdom or will you choose folly?

#### GOSPEL PRESENTATION (James Merritt)

1. The bad news: We are all sinners separated from God.
  - a. Everyone sins.
  - b. God is holy and sin is a barrier between us and Him.
2. The worst news: There is nothing we can do to take care of our sin problem.
  - a. Religion?
  - b. Trying harder?
  - c. Generosity?
3. The good news: Jesus did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
  - a. He lived a sinless life
  - b. He died for our sins.
  - c. His payment was proven at His resurrection.
4. The best news: God’s forgiveness and eternal life is a free gift, and all we have to do is receive it.
  - a. Realize you are a sinner.
  - b. Repent of your sin.
  - c. Receive Christ as Lord and Savior.
5. Three questions
  - a. Do you understand what you have heard, and does it make sense to you?

- b. Is there any reason you can give God that God would accept why you could not receive Christ into your life?
- c. Are you willing to pray to Christ for your salvation?

I'm going to ask that everyone close your eyes and bow your head. If you have not yet prayed to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior, I will give you a chance to do that now. If you are willing, repeat after me:

**Lord Jesus, I confess today that You are Lord. I turn my life over to You to do Your will. I believe in my heart that You were born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for my sins, was buried for three days, and was raised from the dead on the third day. I confess that I am a sinner and ask Your forgiveness for my sins. I commit my life to You from this day forward. Amen!**

We will now sing a hymn of invitation, #518 "Shall We Gather at the River?". If you prayed to accept Christ as Lord, you may come forward during this hymn, or if you're more comfortable, you can see me after the conclusion of the service.