



## Proverbs 1:20-30

(20) Wisdom cries outside; she utters her voice in the streets; (21) She cries in the chief place of gathering, in the openings of the gates; in the city she utters her words, *saying*, (22) "How long will you love simplicity, simple ones? And will scorers delight in their scorning? And will fools hate knowledge? (23) Turn back at my reproof; behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. (24) Because I called, and you refused *to* hearken, I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; (25) But you have despised all my counsel and would have none of my reproof. (26) I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear comes; (27) When your calamity comes like a storm, and your destruction comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and pain come upon you, (28) Then they shall call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me. (29) Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, (30) They would have none of my counsel; they despised all my correction.

*A Faithful Version*

Fearing [God](#) is a choice. Each and every day of our lives, we are faced with many pressures, forces, and influences that compel us to react. We must make a choice: "Shall I go this way, or shall I go that way?" One way represents the fear of God; the other way represents the fear of men, the fear of the loss of pleasure, the fear of the loss of some other physical, social, or cultural "need" that we do not want to lose.

Notice the verbs in this series of verses: "hated," "did not choose," "would have none," "despised"! Is it any wonder that [Romans 8:7](#) says that the carnal mind is enmity against God? We begin to understand that it was the fear of God, given as the gift of God, that drove us to react, drove us in the

direction of the very One who holds in His hands the issues of life! God instilled that reaction within us!

There is an antagonism toward wisdom—toward God. Wisdom is not hiding. People have access to common wisdom, which is described as being right out there on the street—out in public. It is in the forest; it is in the city; it is on the job—it is everywhere! We are surrounded by it! This is why God can make the accusation that the Gentiles who do not have the law are a law unto themselves when they do what the law says is right ([Romans 2:14](#)). Their own conscience bears them witness that they *understand* what is right and what is wrong (verse 15)!

Proverbs 1 shows that God (personified as Wisdom) uses just about every device imaginable to awaken people to what is right, so that they will fear evil. We see Wisdom threatening, laughing, and warning, like a dog baring its teeth. If a snarling pit bull braced to attack every time we were about to [sin](#), we would fear, would we not? Our skin would crawl, our hair would stand on end, and we would be almost spitless!

God has not chosen to warn us in that way, but He does warn us through His Word. He also warns us through the fruit of sin, which we see in [this world](#) as well as in our own lives. It is almost as if Wisdom is saying, "I told you so, but you would not listen!"

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**  
[The Fear of God](#)



### **Related Topics:**

[Conscience](#)

[Consciousness of Sin](#)

[Enmity against God](#)

[Enmity toward God](#)

[Fear of God](#)

[Fear of God is Beginning of Wisdom](#)

[Fearing God](#)

[Fearing God is a Choice](#)

[Wisdom of Man](#)

[Wisdom Personified](#)

Commentary copyright © 1992-2021 [Church of the Great God](#)  
A Faithful Version copyright © 2013 [A Faithful Version](#). All Rights Reserved.