

SEVEN DEADLY FOLLIES

THE FIGHT FOR HAPPINESS IN THE KILLING OF SIN

“We are always sowing the seeds of our future selves. We are embarked, heading in a particular direction, and sooner or later we are bound to end up there. Reaping always follows sowing, like night follows day.”

— Joe Rigney

“Time for you to go out to the places you will be from.”

— Semisonic, *Closing Time*



Cease to hear instruction, my son,
and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

— Proverbs 19:27



“The book of Proverbs is a gospel book, because it is part of the Bible. That means the book of Proverbs is good news for bad people. It is about grace for sinners. It is about hope for failures. It is about wisdom for idiots. This book is Jesus himself coming to us as our counselor, as our sage, as our life coach. The Lord Jesus Christ is a competent thinker for all times and all cultures. He is a genius. And he freely offers us, even us, his unique wisdom. Do you see him that way? You can have him that way — the universe’s greatest expert on you.”

— Ray Ortlund, Jr.



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— Proverbs 9:1-18 —



The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

To know wisdom and instruction,

to understand words of insight,

to receive instruction in wise dealing,

in righteousness, justice, and equity;

to give prudence to the simple,

knowledge and discretion to the youth.

— Proverbs 1:1-4



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

— vs 1



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

— vs 2



She has sent out her young women to call
from the highest places in the town,
“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”
To him who lacks sense she says,
“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.”

— vv 3-6



The woman Folly is loud;
she is seductive and knows nothing.

— vs 13



She sits at the door of her house;
she takes a seat on the highest 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!”
And to him who lacks sense she says,
“Stolen water is sweet,
and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

— vv 14-17



But he does not know that the dead are there,
that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

— vs 18



“Be always at it whilst you live;
cease not a day from this work;
be killing sin or it will be killing you.”

—John Owen,
The Mortification of Sin



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For if you live
according to
the flesh you
will die, but if
by the Spirit
you put to
death the deeds
of the body,
you will live.

— Romans 8:13



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.
Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

— vv 7-9



Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

— Psalm 139:23-24



The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.
For by me 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.

— vv 10-12



“What the alphabet is to reading, notes to reading music,
and numerals to mathematics, the fear of the
LORD is to attaining the revealed knowledge of this book.”

— Bruce Waltke



“What have
you to do with
us, Jesus of
Nazareth?
Have you come
to destroy us?
I know who
you are —
the Holy One
of God.”

— Mark 1:24

“And we have believed,
and have come to know, that you
are the Holy One of God.”

— John 6:69



“Christianity is not merely or even mainly about correcting your bad habits, but about satisfying and fulfilling you in the deepest way possible, and therefore making God look as great as he is. Our hearts were designed to enjoy a full and forever happiness, not the pitiful temporary pleasures for which we’re too prone to settle. Pride, envy, anger, sloth, greed, gluttony, and lust are all woefully inadequate substitutes for the wonder, beauty, and affection of God. As first hopes or dreams or loves, they are killjoys by comparison to Christ. They will rob you, not ravish you. They will numb you, not heal you. They will slaughter you, not save you.



The map inscribed on our sinful soul will not lead any of us to truth, glory, or happiness. It will lead us in circles of 'almost' and 'good enough' until it sits by our hospice bed, holding our confused, disappointed, and hopeless hand as we drift off into hell.

We have to wake up, scrap the old map, and grab the compass pointing true north, trusting that the God who formed our hearts knows how to fill them. We have to fight for joy in the right places.”

— Marshall Segal, *Killjoys*



“We have histories. We are no longer blank slates. We have scribbles and erasures and misspellings and doodlings written messily all over us. In fact, we were born complicated. We were born with a bias toward folly. We were born guilty. Theologians call it Original Sin, and it is real. Add onto our underlying depravity the layers of scar tissue, so to speak, from the sins we have committed and the wounds we have suffered, including scar tissue from botched surgeries, mostly self-performed. All of that complication is the real you and the real me poised here at the crossroads of Proverbs 9. That is the unsimple you and me for whom an obvious choice can be paralyzing. But that is the real you and me God loves and understands and wants to help.”

—Ray Ortlund, Jr.



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