

Most people, when directly confronted by evidence that they are wrong, do not change their point of view or course of action but justify it even more tenaciously. Even irrefutable evidence is rarely enough to pierce the mental armor of selfjustification.

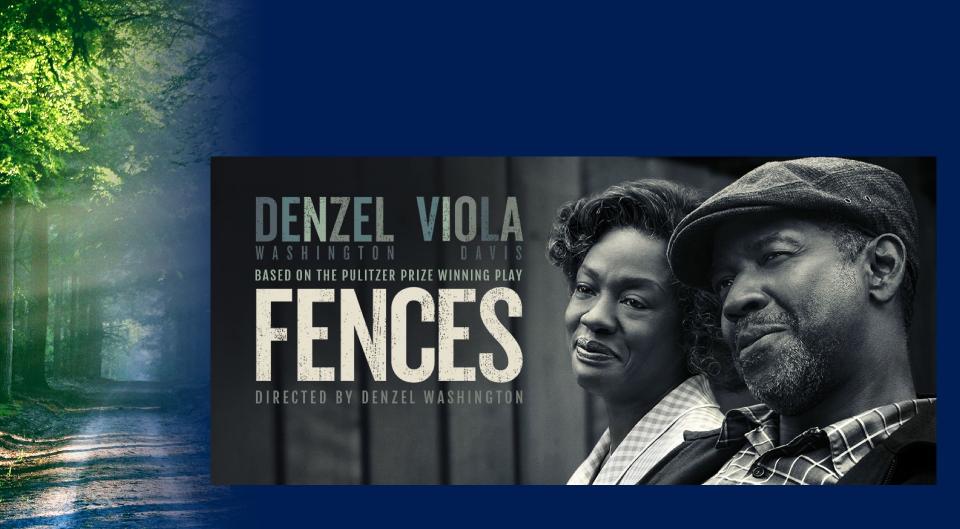




Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; (v. 20)



in the street. . .
in the markets . . .
at the entrance to the city gates;
(20, 21)

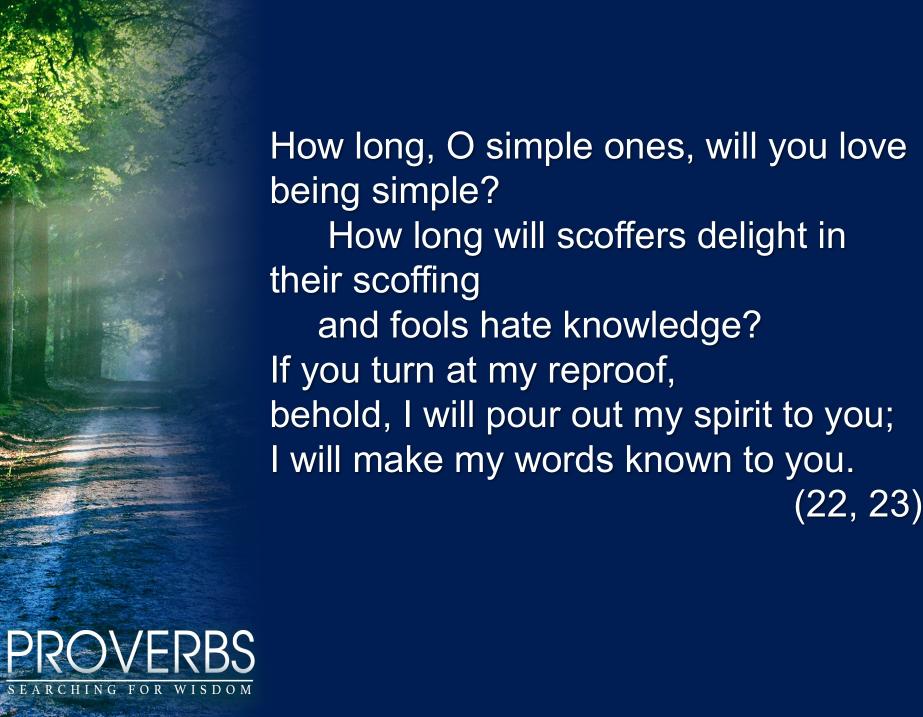






She...cries aloud. . . raises her voice. . . cries out. . . .

(20, 21)





Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!...

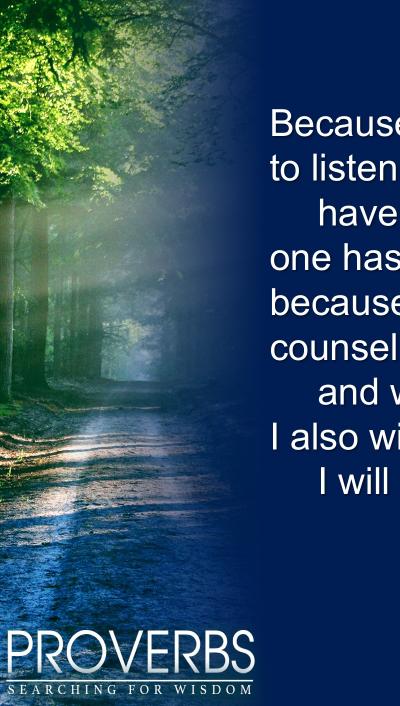
You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;

you flared, blazed, banished my blindness;

you lavished your fragrance, I gasped; and now I pant for you; I tasted you, and now I hunger and thirst;

you touched me, and I burned for your peace.

Confessions



Because I have called and you refused to listen,

have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, because you have ignored all my

and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when terror strikes you,

(24-26)



For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.

(32, 33)



Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade!

John 2:16



Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. . . .



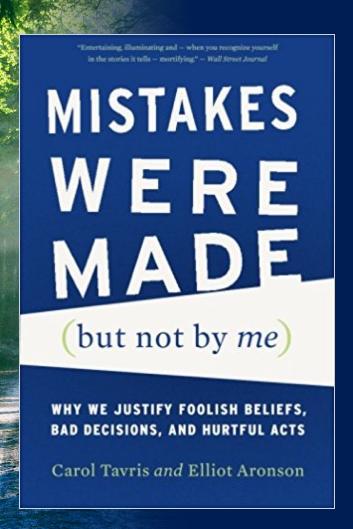
. . . . And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24-27



Today salvation has come to this house. . . .

Luke 19:9



We need a few trusted naysayers in our lives, critics who are willing to puncture our protective bubble of self-justifications and yank us back to reality if we veer too far off. This is especially important for people in positions of power.

