

Proverbs 04 - The Path of Wisdom: Wisdom Perfects Our Paths

II. Solomon's 12 lessons of wisdom to his son(s) (Prov 1:8—9:18)

(6) Lesson 6: Avoid the path of the wicked (4:1-19)

(A) Father's exhortation to his sons to acquire wisdom (4:1-9)

(a) Father's exhortation (4:1-2)

(b) Father's experience (4:3-4)

(c) Father's concluding exhortation to acquire and love wisdom (4:5-9)

(B) Follow the path of the righteous (4:10-19)

(a) Past guidance (4:10-12)

(b) Heed instruction (4:13)

(c) Avoid the path of the wicked (4:14-17)

(d) Follow the path of the righteous (4:18-19)

(7) Lesson 7: Watch over your behavior (4:20-27)

Proverbs 4

(6) Lesson 6: Avoid the path of the wicked (4:1-19)

(A) Father's exhortation to his sons to acquire wisdom (4:1-9)

(a) Father's exhortation (4:1-2)

1 Listen, *my* sons, to the instruction of a father, And pay attention so that you may gain understanding,

1 Hear, *O* sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding,

1 Listen, children, to your father's instruction, and pay attention in order to gain understanding.

1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

- Notice the context here is again a family setting

- The teaching of the children is the burden of the father

2 For I give you good teaching; Do not abandon my instruction.

2 For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction.

2 I give you sound teaching, so do not abandon my instruction.

2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

(b) Father's experience (4:3-4)

3 When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother,
3 When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother,
3 When I was a son to my father, not yet strong and an only son to my mother,
3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me and said to me, "Let your heart take hold of my words; Keep my commandments and live;
4 Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live;
4 he taught me and told me, "Let your heart fully embrace what I have to say; keep my commandments and live!
4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

(c) Father's concluding exhortation to acquire and love wisdom (4:5-9)

5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

5 Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget or turn aside from the words of my mouth!

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 "Do not abandon her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you.

6 "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you.

6 Do not abandon her, and she will protect you. Love her, and she will watch over you.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 "The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your possessions, acquire understanding.

7 "The beginning of wisdom *is*: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.

7 Wisdom is of utmost importance, therefore get wisdom, and with all your effort work to acquire understanding.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her.
8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her.
8 Prize her and she will exalt you. Indeed, if you embrace her, she will honor you.
8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty."

9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty."

9 She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will present to you a crown of beauty."

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

(B) Follow the path of the righteous (4:10-19)

(a) Past guidance (4:10-12)

10 Listen, my son, and accept my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

10 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many.

10 Listen, my son: accept my words, and you'll live a long, long time.

10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

11 I have instructed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.

11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths.

11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom, and I have led you along straight paths.

11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; And if you run, you will not stumble.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.

12 When you walk, your step will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

(b) Heed instruction (4:13)

13 Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

13 Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

13 Hold on to instruction, do not let it go! Guard wisdom, because she is your life!

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

(c) Avoid the path of the wicked (4:14-17)

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil people.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked And do not proceed in the way of evil men.

14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, or go along the way of evil men.

14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on.

15 Avoid it, do not pass by it; Turn away from it and pass on.

15 Avoid it! Don't travel on it! Turn away from it, and pass on by.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; And they are robbed of sleep unless they make *someone* stumble.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they do evil; And they are robbed of sleep unless they make *someone* stumble.

16 For they cannot sleep unless they are doing evil, and they are robbed of their sleep unless they cause someone to stumble.

16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness And drink the wine of violence.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and they drink the wine of violence.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

(d) Follow the path of the righteous (4:18-19)

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.

18 The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that grows brighter until the full light of day.

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.

- 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.
 19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness, and they do not know what they are stumbling over.
 19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

(7) Lesson 7: Watch over your behavior (4:20-27)

- 20 My son, pay attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.
 20 My son, pay attention to my words, and listen closely to what I say.
 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.
- 21 They are not to escape from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.
 21 Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart.
 21 Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart.
 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.
- 22 For they are life to those who find them, And healing to all their body.
 22 For they are life to those who find them And health to all their body.
 22 For they are life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.
 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
- 23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.
 23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.
 23 Above everything else guard your heart, because from it flow the springs of life.
 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the **issues of life**.
 - "...issues of life" [KJV] - the issues in our lives are determined by what is resonating in our heart/mind
 - What is our most important stewardship? For guys you may believe it's our career. Girls will believe it's your family. God says our most important stewardship is our *heart*. What have you done so far this year/last year on the stewardship of your heart? How have you manifested, in your heart, God as a priority? God doesn't want to be #1 on a list of 10...He wants to be #1 on a list of 1.
- 24 Rid yourself of a deceitful mouth And keep devious speech far from you.
 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth And put devious speech far from you.
 24 Never talk deceptively and don't keep company with people whose speech is corrupt.
 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.
25 Let your eyes look directly ahead And let your gaze be fixed straight in front of you.
25 Let your eyes look directly ahead; fix your gaze straight in front of you.
25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Watch the path of your feet, And all your ways will be established.
26 Watch the path of your feet And all your ways will be established.
26 Carefully measure the paths for your feet, and all your ways will be established.
26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Do not turn to the right or to the left; Turn your foot from evil.
27 Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.
27 Do not turn to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.
27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.