

Proverbs – A Study of Some Key Passages

Week 2 – Chapters 4-9: The Call of Wisdom

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Opening Prayer: Lord, You are the source of all true wisdom. Open our hearts to hear Your instruction and give us grace to follow Your ways rather than the ways of the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Week 1 Memory Verse: **Proverbs 3:5-6**)

Key Passage #1 – Hold Fast to Instruction:

Proverbs 4:13 “Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.”

Teaching:

- One of the repeated themes in **Proverbs 4** is the importance of receiving and holding firmly to **godly instruction**. Wisdom is not something we merely hear once; *it is something we treasure throughout life*.
- The Hebrew picture is that of tightly grasping something precious and refusing to let it slip away. God's wisdom is not simply helpful advice—*it is life-giving instruction*. Throughout Scripture, God teaches His people through parents, pastors, teachers, and His written Word.
- **Christians continue to “hold fast” to God's instruction by remaining faithful in ♦worship, ♦Bible study, ♦prayer, and ♦the regular hearing of God's Word.**

Discussion:

1. Why is it easy to forget God's instruction? _____
2. What practices help us hold fast to God's Word? _____
3. How does remaining in God's Word strengthen our faith? _____

Key Passage #2 – The Path of the Righteous:

Proverbs 4:18-19 “...the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know over what they stumble.”

Teaching:

- **Every person** is walking a path.
- One path leads toward God.
- The other leads away from God.
- The righteous grow in wisdom through God's Word, while the wicked remain in darkness.

Discussion:

1. What are some characteristics of the righteous path? _____
2. Why do people often fail to see the dangers of sin? _____
3. How does God's Word function as a light? _____

Key Passage #3 – Guard Your Heart:

Proverbs 4:23 “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Teaching:

- The heart is the center of a person's thoughts, desires, and decisions.
- **What fills the heart eventually shapes the life.**
- That is why Christians are called to meditate on God's word day and night (Joshua 1:8).

Discussion:

1. What influences your heart the most? _____
2. Why is guarding the heart necessary today? _____
3. How does Scripture help protect us? _____

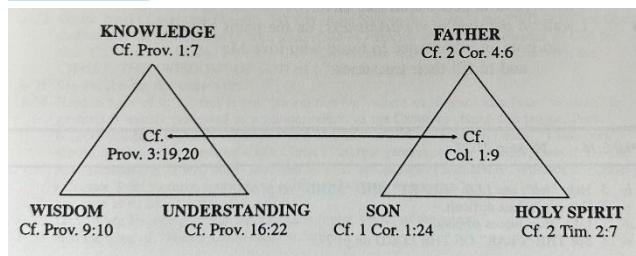
Key Passage #4 – Wisdom's Invitation:

Proverbs 8:35 “For one who finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the LORD.”

Teaching:

- Wisdom is pictured as a gracious teacher inviting people into life.
- **Christ is the ultimate fulfillment of Wisdom.**
- Through Him we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation.

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Key Passage #5 – Two Invitations:

Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Teaching: Chapter 9 brings the introduction of Proverbs to its climax. Throughout chapters 1–9, two voices have been calling.

- **Lady Wisdom** invites people to life, understanding, and God's blessing (9:1–6).
- **Lady Folly** invites people to temporary pleasure that ultimately leads to death (9:13–18).

The reader must decide which invitation to accept. **Verse 10** reminds us that true wisdom does not begin with education, intelligence, or experience. **It begins with a right relationship with God.** To “fear the LORD” is to ➔ reverence Him, ➔ trust His promises, ➔ submit to His Word, and ➔ recognize Him as the source of all truth.

For Christians, this wisdom is found ultimately in Jesus Christ, “**who became to us wisdom from God**” (1 Corinthians 1:30). Through faith in Him, we receive not only forgiveness of sins but also the wisdom to live according to God's will.

Discussion:

1. What are some of the “voices” competing for our attention today?

2. Why does Proverbs return repeatedly to “the fear of the LORD”? _____

3. How does Christ fulfill the wisdom described in Proverbs? _____

Law and Gospel:

- **Law:** We often ignore wisdom's call and follow our own desires.
- **Gospel:** Jesus seeks sinners – inviting them and enabling them to repent and believe unto eternal life.

The Overall Progression of Proverbs 4–9:

1. **4:18–19** — The two paths.
2. **4:23** — Guard your heart.
3. **4:13** — Hold fast to God's instruction.
4. **8:35** — Wisdom offers life.
5. **9:10** — The fear of the LORD and the choice between Wisdom and Folly.

That sequence provides a clear movement from ➔receiving wisdom, ➔guarding it, ➔embracing God's instruction, ➔accepting Wisdom's invitation, and ➔concluding with the foundational truth that “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”

Application: Identify one influence that helps your spiritual life and one influence that harms it: _____

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23 “Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.”

Week 3 Preparation: Read **Proverbs 10-15**