

Proverbs – A Study of Some Key Passages

Week 5 – Chapters 22 – 29: The Sayings of the Wise

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Opening Prayer: Lord, give us teachable hearts and help us to receive correction with humility. Amen.
(Week 4 Memory Verse: **Proverbs 16:18**)

Key Passage #1 – Train Up a Child:

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he grows older he will not abandon it.”

Teaching:

- One of the greatest responsibilities God gives to parents is to teach their children His Word. The Hebrew word translated **train** suggests dedicating or setting a child on the proper path. Proverbs emphasizes that parents should **begin** this instruction early and **continue** it consistently.
- See the brochure: The Most IMPORTANT Legacy – It focuses on this passage:
Parents: ^{N95} **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.”
Parents to Children: ⁷ “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
- This proverb is a general principle rather than an absolute promise. Faithful Christian parents cannot guarantee the future faithfulness of their children, but they are called to **teach** God's Word diligently and to **model** a life of repentance and faith. God works

through His Word to create and strengthen faith according to His gracious will.

- The responsibility for Christian education also belongs to the whole congregation, as pastors, teachers, grandparents, and fellow believers encourage young people to remain in Christ.

Discussion:

- Why is it important to begin teaching God's Word early in life? At what age do children learn the most? “**From birth to 5 years old, with the highest velocity of brain development occurring in the first 3 years of life. During this critical window, a child's brain builds foundational neural connections at a speed unmatched at any other time in human life**” (CA Dept. of Edu.).
- Why should parents teach by both words and examples?
- In what ways can the congregation help raise children in the faith?
- What encouragement does this proverb offer to Christian families?

Key Passage #2 – The Value of Instruction:

Proverbs 22:17 “Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your mind to my knowledge.”

Teaching:

- Wisdom requires listening.
- The wise remain teachable throughout life.

Discussion: Are you open to learn from others?

Key Passage #3 – Faithful Friends:

Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.”

Teaching: True friends sometimes say hard things for our good.

Discussion:

1. Why is correction difficult?
2. How should Christians give correction?
3. How should Christians receive correction?

Key Passage #4 – Iron Sharpens Iron:

Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Teaching: God often uses other believers to strengthen our faith and character.

Discussion: Can you share a time when you had an iron-sharpens-iron experience?

Key Passage #5 – Trusting God Instead of People:

Proverbs 29:25 “The fear of man brings a snare, But one who trusts in the LORD will be protected.”

Teaching:

- Many people make decisions based on what others might think of them. Proverbs warns that living to please people becomes a trap. Fear of rejection, criticism, or ridicule can keep us from doing what is right.
- Instead, believers are called to place their confidence in the Lord. Trusting God gives courage to ♦confess our faith, ♦stand for truth, and ♦live according to His commandments even when doing so is unpopular.
- Jesus Himself demonstrated this perfect trust. He obeyed His Father despite **opposition, rejection, and suffering**, and

He now strengthens His people to confess Him boldly before the world.

Discussion:

1. What are some ways people seek the approval of others?
2. Why can the fear of people become a spiritual trap?
3. How does trusting the Lord give us courage?
4. When have you experienced God's help in standing for what is right?

Law and Gospel:

- **Law:** We resist correction because of pride.
- **Gospel:** Jesus lovingly corrects and restores sinners.

Application: Seek advice from a *mature Christian* about an important decision.

Memory Verse:

Proverbs 27:17 “Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Week 6 Preparation: Read **Proverbs 30-31**