

CHAPTER 4

Proverbs 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

Children, do you attentively listen to your father to learn what he has to teach you?

Fathers, do you teach your children? Demand their attention? Give wise instruction? We should all listen attentively to the instruction of our Heavenly Father and His ministers.

Children are God's gift to married, godly parents (***Psalm 127:3***).

Children arrive without understanding (***Proverbs 22:15***).

Children need to be taught and instructed, or they will default to the depraved impulses, of their wicked hearts or the world's profane ideas (***Proverbs 1:8; 6:20-23***).

There Was No Scripture In The World Until 1532 BC.

No man had a single verse of the Bible for 2,514 years. All the instruction came by word of mouth, from father to son.

Men living as long as 969 years, in the case of Methusaleh (***Genesis 5:27***), there was also Word of mouth from grandfathers to grandsons! Our Proverb was very important!

In 1532 BC, God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel. One of them had a promised blessing attached to it: the commandment for children to honor their parents (***Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16***).

This honor, which extends to all ages of parents and children, included obedience to their instruction (***Leviticus 19:3; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20***).

Child obedience to parents was enforced in the Jewish nation by the death penalty (***Deuteronomy 21:18-21***).

Children, you must pay careful attention, to hear and obey the instruction, you receive from your parents, especially fathers (***Proverbs 23:22; 30:17***).

You are a fool if you despise the teaching of your father (***Proverbs 15:5***).

When you are old enough to think you know something, your father already, has more wisdom than you can imagine exists in the universe!

As fathers, your duty is certain and important. You must train your children in the fear of the Lord, and perpetuate the truth of God through them and their children (***Proverbs 22:6; 29:15; Genesis 18:19; Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-9,20-25; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 34:11; 71:18; 78:1-8; Isaiah 38:19; Joel 1:1-3; Ephesians 6:4***).

Paul presumed that fathers exhort, comfort, and charge children (***1Thessalonians 2:11***).

Ministers are spiritual fathers), who are bound to be diligent in their teaching (***1Corinthians 4:14-15; 2Corinthians 6:13 (1Timothy 4:13-16; 2Timothy 4:1-4)***).

It is the duty of hearers, to attentively hear their instruction and obey it (***1Thessalonians 5:20; Hebrews 13:7, 17***).

Our Lord teaches us: by His Word (***Luke 8:4-18***), by our conscience (***Proverbs 20:27***), by chastening (***Proverbs 3:11-12***), and by the Holy Spirit (***Ephesians 1:17; 3:14-19***).

It is our solemn duty, to attentively hear all that the Lord teaches us by any of these means.

Are you obedient, in the various duties of this Proverb?

If you are a child, you must heed, any parental instruction.

If you are a father, you must be teaching and training your children. Both are to humble themselves to hear God and His ministers.

The Lord Jesus Christ heard all His Father taught, and attended to all His instruction, for He declared plainly that He always did those things that pleased Him (***John 8:29***).

Even when the duty seemed overwhelming, Jesus heard and obeyed His Father (***Matthew 26:39***).

Proverbs 4:2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

Fathers should teach good doctrine, they should know their doctrine is good, and they should tell their sons it is good, and their sons should keep it.

Doctrine is teaching and instruction, or the system of principles, which is given as final truth on a particular subject. To be good doctrine, it must be instruction or principles based on God's Word.

**Godly Fathers
Are Not Confused
Or Timid Men.**

Godly fathers know they have the truth and wisdom the world does not have, and they give it authoritatively to their children. God said of Abraham, "*For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment*" (**Genesis 18:19**).

Moses commanded fathers to teach their sons. He ordered, "*And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up*" (**Deuteronomy 6:6-7**).

David said to his family, "*Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD*" (**Psalms 34:11**).

This doctrinal instruction from father to son can have far reaching effects. "*Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation*" (**Joel 1:3**).

Good Doctrinal Instruction Can Guide Four Generations, Or More!

Where are the fathers? The typical Christian father today sends the kids to Sunday School, for a woman to teach them, attends their Little League games, locks out adult channels, on the television cable, brings home enough cash flow for three modest families to subsist on, sends them to a secular university, and pays for a big wedding. He is AWOL spiritually!

Fathers are a despised species! They are demeaned at school, ridiculed on television, mocked in movies, and ignored in court.

They are browbeaten at home by overbearing wives, who "need to say something."

They are the butt of most family jokes. Kids learn to avoid them, conspire against them, steal from them, placate them, and disregard them.

Real fathers laugh at the conspiracy. They have an office and mandate from God, and they are going to do their job with confidence and zeal.

Real fathers fear no man, especially their wives and children.

Real fathers know they have more truth and wisdom than the local school board combined and squared. And real fathers say boldly, "*I give you good doctrine!*"

What is a real father's textbook and manual? The Word of God, the Holy Bible, the inspired Scriptures!

Real fathers know that everything else is mere drivel and twaddle, the babblings of egotistical idiots in love with themselves (**Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21**).

Real fathers despise any opinion contrary to God's Word (**Psalms 119:98-100, 128**).

Real fathers know they have wisdom, righteousness, and life that make men and nations great (**Deuteronomy 4:5-10; 6:24-25; 32:46-47**).

Where are the pastors to give fathers a holy example? Typically: They have abdicated their office to the minister of music, minister of sports, and minister of building programs.

They are browbeaten by the deacon board and warned by the denominational headquarters to keep the message watered down to be politically correct and keep the unregenerate attending.

They are a despised species! Their heroes in the faith, mighty men who thundered sound doctrine, are ridiculed or ignored as Neanderthal tyrants out of touch with their feminine side, who preached a male view of God and the psychologically-damaging concept of hell.

They usually get ten minutes to preach to sleepy hearers in sandals and tank tops, for children's theater, interpretive dance, Jesus rap, and fundraising took most of the service.

Real pastors laugh at the conspiracy. They also have an office and mandate from heaven.

Real pastors are going to blast the trumpet of repentance, reformation, and righteousness.

Real pastors don't care about numbers, since they know only eight were in the ark and billions in the water!

Real pastors are going to preach the Word intensely, in spite of marketing surveys showing universal demand for fables and entertainment (**2Timothy 4:1-4**).

What is a real pastors textbook and manual? The same, The Final Authority Word of God, The Holy Bible, and inspired Scriptures!

Real pastors know they are perfectly prepared for any and all ministerial work with simply the Bible (**2Timothy 3:16-17**).

Real pastors are not moved by men or angels preaching or suggesting anything else (**Job 32:6-10; Galatians 1:6-9; 2Corinthians 2:17; 4:1-2; 11:3-5,13-15**).

Reader, do you love sound doctrine? Or are you part of the feminine movement to replace Bible preaching with entertainment and sharing sessions?

Could you stand all day to hear the Word of God read distinctly and the proper sense given (*Nehemiah 8:1-8*)? Would you?

Could you grieve for your sins, but celebrate for joy of understanding (*Nehemiah 8:9-12*)?

Could you ask for the same kind of service again in seven days (*Nehemiah 8:13-18*)?

Do you know how to find sound doctrine?

- It is only in the Word of God.
- It is your duty to search the Scriptures faithfully to see if what you are hearing is right (*Acts 17:11*).
- It is your duty to prove all things and hold fast that which is good (*1Thessalonians 5:21*).

Father, at your disposal, is the truth and wisdom of God. You should teach your children; you should do it confidently and dogmatically, you should enforce it.

**Your Family's Future Depends On It.
Stand Up, And Be Counted
Among God's Mighty Men Of Valor!**

Child, your father knows more than you can even imagine. Listen to him. When he brings God's Word and his doctrine, pay attention! Humble yourself!

Child, forsake not, forget or neglect or disregard, his law. Honor him for his efforts. Thank him.

Pastor, you stand between mankind and their total destruction. You have good doctrine, for the Scriptures are profitable for doctrine. Preach the Word! The Lord is with you!

***Proverbs 4:3 For I was my father's son,
tender and only beloved in the sight of my
mother.***

**Children Are A Blessing From God,
But They Bring Responsibilities.**

If a man impregnates a woman, and the woman gives birth to a baby, and together you raise the child: You have done nothing more than animals: reproducing your species.

A true father and mother will love each child! And they will make sure they carefully teach wisdom to each child!

Solomon's parents were David and Bathsheba. God loved Solomon, and so did David. God chose Solomon from all of David's sons to be the next king of Israel. Solomon knew his father especially loved him, "*I was my father's son*" and his father taught him many things (*Proverbs 4:1-9*).

David's advice at Solomon's coronation was beneficial, and his deathbed advice was also very wise (*1Kings 2:1-9; 1Chronicles 28:1-21; 2Samuel 23:1-7*).

Bathsheba also loved Solomon very much. She tenderly loved him every minute of his life, even though she had four sons. See the comments on *Proverbs 31:2*.

The greatest men have such mothers, women who love them dearly and do everything to prepare them for manhood. Bathsheba taught Solomon (*Proverbs 1:8; 6:20; 30:1*).

She went to bat for him, when it appeared, the crown might be given to a sibling competitor (*1Kings 1:11-40*).

Solomon appealed to the great love his parents had for him to explain the motive for their instruction of him (*Proverbs 4:3-9*).

Solomon wanted his children to understand his great desire to teach them as well (*Proverbs 4:1-2*).

The book of Proverbs is primarily Solomon's fatherly advice to his children, especially his son. And the practical application, of parental love in teaching wisdom, is the lesson you are to learn from this Proverb.

Animals give birth! Animals nurse their young! Animals bring home the bacon! Animals teach their young to survive! Animals assist in a family kill! Animals die and leave a family lair or den to their young! But you are not an animal!

If your parenting is primarily reproducing, feeding, clothing, sending them to school, and supporting them financially, you have done nothing more than what animals do. And you have done nothing more than what pagan parents do for their children! Lord, help you!

A child is an eternal soul, on loan from its Creator. Parent, you are accountable to God and must teach each child God's wisdom, the wisdom of Proverbs and the Bible.

Homework is not wisdom, the vast majority of it is simply drivel! Paying their way through a university is worse, you are corrupting their minds away from God's wisdom! A liberal arts degree is a license to insane thinking!

Teach them something of value! Through the Holy Spirit, David said, "*Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD*" (*Psalms 34:11*).

David and Bathsheba loved Solomon, so they taught him! Do you love your children? It has nothing to do

with sentimental feelings and providing food, clothing, shelter, and education for them!

Are you giving them, moral success, before God and good men, by teaching them the fear of the Lord and wisdom of God in the Word of God?

Father, this is not a choice! Father, this has nothing to do with tiredness at the end of a day!

The parts of every day must be viewed as training opportunities. Through the Holy Spirit, Moses commanded Israel's fathers to diligently teach their children, when they were sitting in their houses, walking by the way, rising up in the morning, and going to bed at night (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*).

So how serious is this matter to you? Life or death and hell! Proper training can save your child from a premature death or a dysfunctional life of hell on earth (*Proverbs 23:13-14*).

Neglect of this training will bring you perpetual shame (*Proverbs 29:15*).

You control the future destiny of your child in this world! What kind of a destiny are you giving them today? (*Proverbs 22:6, 15*)

So, how serious is the matter? Fathers are commanded to teach wisdom to their children (*Ephesians 6:4*).

Even widows are to be neglected, **If** they have not, performed this most important part of being a mother (*1Timothy 5:9-10*).

Great women take this job seriously, and they have wonderful children, as Samuel and Timothy have proven (*1Samuel 1:24-28; 2Timothy 1:3-5; 3:15*).

Do you love your child? Then you will reprove and correct them, to save them from folly, trouble, and destruction in their lives (*Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 29:17*).

Do it now, while there is hope! Do it betimes, before they learn bad habits! Do not spare for their crying!

God declares that you hate your children, **If** you are not engaged in serious efforts to teach them the fear of the Lord and the knowledge of the Bible.

And this matter does not stop when your children move out, for grandchildren are also your responsibility (*Psalms 71:18; 78:1-8; Joel 1:1-3*).

They are the only crown of old men, **If** old men are walking in the way of righteousness and wisdom (*Proverbs 17:6*).

A foolish son is the calamity and shame of his whole family, and a foolish grandson is still the fault of the

lazy grandfather, who did not train his son to be a godly father! (*Proverbs 10:1; 17:21, 25; 19:13*)

The world's idea of child training is Benjamin Spock, goofy mobiles, bottle feeding, Dr. Seuss, Sesame Street, forced busing to the public zoo, MTV, dating at fourteen, a car at fifteen, an all-expense-paid-four-year-party at a daycare, for the hormonally-crazed, in another state, and a gala wedding to some person they "love." Lord, have mercy on us!

Their idea of education is devised by God-hating, truth-despising, parent-ridiculing, Bible-deriding, prayer-outlawing, immoral, degenerate descendants of monkeys! Brainwashing them for 20 years from K-3 to a master's degree, they graduate the most morally bankrupt and socially dysfunctional generation the world has ever seen.

Do you love your child? Do not measure your affection by the standards of this worldly generation; measure your love by the standard of God's Holy Word.

Teach them the fear of the LORD, the wisdom of Proverbs, the glory of Jesus Christ, the precious grace of God's salvation and His life-changing hope of eternity!

Proverbs 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

**The Heritage Of The Righteous
Is Wisdom And Truth!**

**What Is Your Family
Transferring From Generation To Generation?**

**Solomon Admitted That His Father,
David, Had Taught Him.**

So Solomon taught his children to perpetuate knowledge from father to son. He stressed that a successful life required his son to retain and keep this knowledge.

"*He taught me also.*" Solomon was a favorite of David, so the instruction David gave him came from a loving heart desiring the very best for his son (*Proverbs 4:1-4*).

So, in faithful fulfillment of his office, as father, Solomon appealed to his children to hear instruction from him.

How Is Truth Perpetuated In The Earth?

**What Is The Greatest Gift Parents
Can Give Children?**

The greatest heritage parents give their children is wisdom and truth, which is how both are kept secure in the world.

Two passages of Scripture carefully describe four generations as every man's goal (*Psalm 78:1-8; Joel 1:1-3*).

Therefore, godly families should never repeat the same mistakes, and they should greatly increase in wisdom, generation by generation.

Fathers are to be teachers. This is not an option or suggestion. Under both Bible Testaments, the father was the designated teacher (*Deuteronomy 4:9; 6:4-7; Ephesians 6:4*).

If a child remains a fool and shames his parents, it is because the father did not do his job (*Proverbs 22:6; 29:15*).

It is a horrible shame that television, public schools, and peer pressure do most of the teaching today.

Sons Like Solomon Are Not Chance Events. David and Bathsheba taught Solomon. While God blessed Solomon with much wisdom after he became king, it was David who had given him an excellent foundation from his youth.

Surely David had seen the dire consequences of neglecting his other sons, Adonijah, Absalom, and Amnon (*1Kings 1:6*).

David taught Solomon three things:

1. **Retain what I teach you.** Do more than hear me. Listen to what I say, grasp its meaning, agree in your heart with its righteousness and truthfulness, meditate on it, review the principles, and apply them to every circumstance of life.
2. **Keep my commandments.** It is not enough to hear and retain them, you must keep them. You must do them. As with the Word of God, it is the doers of the Word who are blessed, not just the hearers (*James 1:21-25*). Any rules are only as good as they are obeyed.
3. **The goal and result of this instruction is your successful life.** We are not dealing with minor things here. We are dealing with life, your life! Keep these rules and live! Live well! Live righteously! Live abundantly! Grow in favor with God and men! Live!

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding; forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

What have you done, or will you do, today, to get wisdom and understanding? Solomon exhorted his son to get wisdom, remember wisdom, and follow wisdom.

God has offered wisdom and understanding to simple men. Have you taken advantage of the gracious privilege?

If you have even a small desire to learn this Proverb, you are blessed.

There are three instructions in this Proverb. To achieve your maximum success before God and men:

1. You must get wisdom and understanding;
2. You must not forget wisdom once you learn it;
3. You must not backslide away from keeping it.

While these duties could make Solomon's son a great king, they also make you great in the sight of the Lord.

The first instruction is to get wisdom and understanding. The only source document on earth is the Word of God, because any other opinion has no light at all (*Isaiah 8:20*).

The inspired Scriptures are perfect for teaching wisdom (*2Timothy 3:14-17*).

To this more Sure Word we are to take heed (*2Peter 1:19-21*).

This should be your daily delight (*Job 23:12; Psalm 1:2; 19:10*).

When Philip asked the eunuch if he understood what he was reading, the eunuch said, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" (*Acts 8:30-31*).

Philip preached Jesus to him; he was saved and quickly baptized; and he went on his way rejoicing. God has given pastors and teachers to guide us in understanding His Word (*Nehemiah 8:8; Malachi 2:7; 2Timothy 2:2*).

But without the blessing of God's Spirit, neither reading nor hearing preaching will work well. Paul prayed for the Ephesians saints to be enlightened by the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to know the things of God (*Ephesians 1:17-18*).

The Lord has promised to give wisdom and His Spirit liberally to those who ask for them (*James 1:5; Luke 11:13*).

Once you have used Scripture, ministers, and prayer to obtain wisdom and understanding. It is then our duty to remember what You learn.

Paul feared for the Corinthians, for they had forgotten some of his teaching regarding the resurrection (*1Corinthians 15:1-2*).

It is your duty to meditate upon the things you are taught and not let them slip away (*Proverbs 6:20-22; Hebrews 2:1-4*).

**Hold Wisdom Tight
In Your Memory:**

You must also hold it tight in your practice. You cannot decline away from what you have been taught. You must not backslide. You must hold fast the profession of the apostolic faith without wavering and not be moved away from the True Gospel (*2Thessalonians 2:15; Hebrews 10:23*).

There would be no Roman Catholic Church, if the church at Rome had followed this pattern. Our brother Paul taught that the purpose of a local church is to help one another keep the faith (*Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25*).

Proverbs 4:6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

There is a great woman who will keep you safe from pain and trouble. Every man needs her, for his life depends on his relationship to her. She is perfect and beautiful, yet available to any man.

The man cannot forsake her, and he must love her. **If** he will meet these simple conditions, she will look out for him and cause him to prosper. She will keep and preserve him from failure. Who is this woman? She is the wonderful Lady Wisdom.

Young men think a lot about women, so David personified wisdom as a woman to get his son's attention, with this intriguing figure of speech. It is David's creation here, for Solomon had just described his childhood, "*For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also ...*" (*Proverbs 4:3-4*).

Solomon encouraged his son by appealing to the relationship and training he had had with his father.

We understand David's instruction to Solomon, but it is much harder to determine where David's ends and Solomon's resumes. *Proverbs 4:4*

Consider this wonderful endorsement of the book of Proverbs! The illustrious David contributed to its valuable content both directly by composing Proverbs and indirectly by teaching Solomon.

**The Man Who Neglects This Book,
Is Choosing To Be A Failure In Life.**

Americans appreciate the idea of a great woman protecting them, for they have in New York Harbor the grand figure of Lady Liberty holding aloft her torch to light the way for the tired, poor, huddled, and homeless masses, yearning to breathe free.

Lady Liberty has been a beacon of freedom to millions of immigrants and a sign of safety to returning soldiers. Her words are powerful; her image is powerful; and the combination is very powerful.

**A Wise Son Will Consider David's Words,
Visualize The Image, And Accept The Lesson.**

**Your Life Depends On How You Treat
The Wisdom You Are Offered.**

Your parents taught you wisdom first. Then teachers and pastors attempted to teach you. However, most of all, wisdom is found in the pages of the Bible, which is where God has revealed the rules for you to have a successful and prosperous life and eternity (*Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalms 19:7-11; 119:98-100, 104, 130; Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4*).

If you forsake the wisdom your parents, teachers, and the Bible offer, then you will suffer the painful consequences of a foolish life.

If you will, hold to and love wisdom, it can deliver you, from the dysfunctional difficulties that most live with every day.

The lesson is simple. What will you do with wisdom? What have you done today with the book of wisdom, the Bible? Have you humbled yourself before its understanding and truth?

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Here is the key verse of Proverbs! These are King David's Words to his son Solomon (*Proverbs 4:1-9*).

They explain the purpose of the book of Proverbs. They describe the greatest goal for any life, the important pursuit of wisdom and understanding.

It is mankind's folly and any other ambition that competes with this chief goal. It is your duty, to consider this opportunity and seek wisdom.

**Wisdom Is The Principal Thing
The Most Important Matter In Life.**

Wisdom is the power of right judgment - the ability to choose the correct solution for any situation.

Wisdom is knowing how to think, speak, and act to please both God and men.

Wisdom is the basis for victorious living.

Without wisdom, men make choices that bring them pain, poverty, trouble, and even death. With it, men make choices that can bring them health, peace, prosperity, and life.

Understanding is the power of discernment, to see beyond what meets the eye, and recognize the inherent faults, or merits of a thing.

Understanding is connected to wisdom, and it is an important goal. Without it, men are easily deceived and led astray. Without it, men are confused and perplexed.

With understanding men can see what others miss, and they can avoid the snares and traps of seducing sins. With understanding, life's difficulties are simple.

Here is success defined and exalted! What will you do with this axiom of life, for yourself and your children?

If you neglect this matter, the most important of life, you will bring dysfunction and trouble upon yourself and your family.

If you make it a priority to get wisdom and understanding, you can bask in pleasant prosperity.

Finding wisdom brings life and God's favor, neglecting wisdom, wrongs your own soul and brings death (*Proverbs 8:35-36*).

America spends billions on education, but neither wisdom nor understanding is part of any curriculum!

Parents sacrifice for their children to "get an education," as if it were the noblest human goal! But they fail to realize, learning without wisdom or understanding is worse than worthless, for it gives false confidence, in knowledge, that cannot protect your life and leads to bad choices.

An educated fool is worse than an ignorant fool (*Proverbs 26:12*)!

Wisdom is the principal thing, but it is not in the scope and sequence of any grade, of any state, of any modern nation. A bachelor's degree takes 17 years of formal education, but the degree is granted without any consideration of wisdom.

**Wisdom And Understanding Require
Knowing And Fearing God
(*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).**

Without them, a person cannot even start to obtain wisdom. But these vital prerequisites are forbidden and ridiculed in our nation's institutions of "higher learning"!

What higher learning are they pursuing? Irrelevant facts and insane reasoning! Facts without a valuable context

are irrelevant, and reasoning without a First Cause and moral absolutes is hallucination.

What are the main goals of our so-called enlightened nation?

Pleasure! That makes us, no better than the Epicurean madness of the Greeks (*Acts 17:16-34*).

The Love Of Money! Which is the root of all evil and drowns men in destruction (*1Timothy 6:6-10*).

Health! Which is quite worthless, if your stronger and longer life is used to extend your dysfunctional living (*Proverbs 13:15*).

What are you doing with and for your children? Are you teaching them the power of right discernment and right judgment? Do you have these abilities yourself? (*Deuteronomy 6:6*).

Or do you think you are a great parent by giving them three squares a day, a few hours of restricted television, and picking them up from soccer practice?

Wisdom is found in the Word of God, and any thoughts contrary to the Word of God are dark ignorance (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5, 20*).

It is your duty to learn wisdom from the Bible, and it is your duty to teach it to your children (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:4; 2Timothy 3:15*).

If you do not teach them, do you think Miss Huckleberry at the local Middle School is going to do it? Most pastors and churches don't even do it today!

Wisdom may be summarized as a biblical worldview. The world is drunk with nihilism ^{everything is unreal}, naturalism, humanism, and pantheism, among other heresies.

Your children should be totally established in a Creator God, who has revealed absolute truth in the Bible, which is perfect in every part, and contains the factual knowledge of Jesus Christ, the devil, the origin and end of man, eternal punishment, and perfect rules for society.

Wisdom may be seen clearly by comparing it to folly, as many of Proverbs do. You have daily opportunities in our confused and profane world to identify the foolishness of man and show, the answer of wisdom, straight from the Word of God.

Wisdom takes a commitment, a commitment to reject your thoughts (*Proverbs 18:1; 3:5; 17:16; 18:2*).

Wisdom cannot be a part-time pursuit, for it requires the careful diligence that hunting for hidden treasure requires (*Proverbs 2:1-9*).

You must redeem your time for the pursuit of wisdom (*Ephesians 5:15-17*).

Yet wisdom is easy for those who love wisdom and seek wisdom with humble readiness (*Proverbs 8:17; 14:6*).

May God bless His children, to simplify their lives, getting rid of unnecessary noise and distraction, to focus on the principal things, wisdom and understanding.

Do not let the world or devil distract you with frivolous and worthless pursuits. Jesus grew in wisdom and in favor with God and man, and these are the right goals for you and your family.

Proverbs 4:8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

**Promotion
And Honor Are Simple.**

Exalt and embrace wisdom. You will be promoted and honored by God and men.

Son, make wisdom the most important goal of your life, love her with fervent appreciation, and she will bring you greatness.

Solomon here repeated David's exhortation to the pursuit of wisdom (*Proverbs 4:5-9*).

Solomon remembered his own father teaching him, and he repeated the valuable instruction for the benefit of his son (*Proverbs 4:3-4*).

Let every parent understand the importance of such training.

The highest goal for every man is to be like the Lord Jesus Christ, Who grew in favor with God and man (*Luke 2:52*).

How did Lord Jesus Christ, accomplish this noble and wonderful thing? He grew in wisdom, which is the ability to judge and act rightly in life.

It is by wisdom, that any person, can find approval of God and man. Wisdom brings promotion and honor.

There are four feminine pronouns in this Proverb referring to Lady Wisdom, Solomon's personification of wisdom, understanding, discretion, and knowledge.

Solomon warned against the strange woman (*Proverbs 7:5-27; 9:13-18*).

Solomon also told of wonderful Lady Wisdom and her great benefits for men (*Proverbs 1:20-33; 2:4; 3:13-18; 4:5-13; 7:1-4; 8:1-36; 9:1-5*).

David, by wisdom, had a heart like God's, so the LORD made him king over Israel, and all Israel loved him (*1Samuel 18:16, 30; 2Samuel 7:8*).

Lady wisdom promoted and honored him! Even his enemies and subjects thought well of him (*1Samuel 29:9; 2Samuel 14:17*)!

How did he get this glorious reputation? He committed himself to wisdom (*Psalms 101:1-8*).

David exalted and embraced wisdom. Consider his holy example well. What did he think of Scripture?

David thought wisdom more valuable than much fine gold and more pleasant than honey and the honeycomb (*Psalms 19:10; 119:127*)!

How often did David think about the Bible? Day and night (*Psalms 1:2*)!

What was David's greatest treasure? The Bible (*Psalms 119:14, 111, 162*)!

Where did David want to be more than anywhere else? In church (*Psalms 84:10*)!

Who were David's only friends? Men fearing God and keeping his commandments (*Psalms 119:63*)!

How often did David pray? Three times a day (*Psalms 55:17*)!

How did David approach God? In humble self-examination (*Psalms 139:23-24*)!

Did David praise the Lord? Seven times a day (*Psalms 119:164*)!

If God and men have not promoted and honored you, humble yourself and confess your neglect of wisdom.

Exalt and embrace her in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Seek His Word, His Church, and His saints with all your heart. Promotion and honor will come!

Proverbs 4:9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

What is the one best choice to enhance your life and reputation? Make wisdom and understanding, most important in your life (*Proverbs 4:7-8*)!

Solomon told his children the rule he had received from his father. David had taught him to get wisdom above

all else and not forsake it. Solomon told his children to pursue the very same goal. (*Proverbs 4:1-8*)

No wonder Solomon knew what to ask, when God offered him anything he desired! His parents had taught him well. (*1Kings 3:5*)

Solomon knew wisdom was the most important thing. He did not ask for long life, wealth, women, the destruction of his enemies, or any other vain thing. He wanted wisdom and understanding (*1Kings 3:6-10*).

Because of this incredibly prudent choice by Solomon, God gave him a wise and understanding heart, greater than any other man's (*1Kings 3:11-12*).

The LORD also gave Solomon riches, honor, and a long life as additional rewards for the wise choice (*1Kings 3:13-14*).

Solomon was set in every way! And how? By putting wisdom first!

David knew about the importance of wisdom. After killing Goliath and entering public office, David's reputation rose rapidly due to his great wisdom in conducting his affairs (*1Samuel 18:14-16*).

Compared to foolish and profane Saul, David was a paragon of virtue and wisdom. Saul envied David, but Israel loved and exalted David (*1Samuel 18:28-30*).

Do you grasp this Proverb? The most important thing you can teach your children is wisdom, which is the power of right judgment based on God's Word. It begins with the fear of the Lord (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

Wisdom builds by the Word of God. It is learning to think, speak, and act as God would, which is plainly revealed in Scripture. (*Psalms 19:7-10*)

David, the man after God's own heart, knew how to think, speak, and act wisely.

If you emphasize academic education of your children instead of or in place of wisdom, you have missed it.

If you exalt their athletic achievements, you have missed it.

If you praise their financial or professional successes, you have missed it. "Wisdom is the principle thing...." *Proverbs 4:7*.

A wise and understanding heart, comes from walking with God, learning Scripture, and applying it to life situations.

A wise and understanding heart, comes from meditating, obeying, and applying Scripture vigorously (*Psalms 1:1-3; 119:98-100; Hebrews 5:14*).

What if your child gets a PhD, plays professional basketball, and plows his earnings into successful businesses that make him a billionaire? Has he achieved success? Have you helped him? No! No! Because none of these things will help him in the important matters of life, or help him secure the favor of God and good men (*Proverbs 22:1; Luke 2:52*).

What about yourself? Do you understand the importance of wisdom and understanding? Without them, you will have a dysfunctional life. Grace and glory await those who will diligently seek wisdom (*Proverbs 1:9; 3:22; 16:16; 18:1*).

How did you read this Proverb? As a burden? With only casual interest? Or with craving zeal? How many minutes of this day have you dedicated to pursuing the wisdom of God?

You Cannot Cheat On Or In God's Word!

If you seek to find fulfillment or success by any other means, you will be disappointed; and your whole life will be a painful experiment in vain and vexing futility!

Seek wisdom and understanding from the Word of God and live a fulfilling and successful life!

If you do not even know how to get started, He will liberally answer your prayer for wisdom (*James 1:5*).

These lives exemplify the horror of not seeking wisdom first.

Howard Hughes had money, lots of it! But he ended his life a neurotic recluse and dysfunctional idiot!

Princess Diana had popularity, lots of it! But her life was filled with loneliness, pain, and turmoil!

Ty Cobb had athletic success, lots of it! But he spent his life hating, and being hated.

John F. Kennedy, Jr. had great advantages and potential, but folly cut him short.

Marilyn Monroe was a star, but her light was put out in obscure darkness!

Elvis Presley was adored by pagans, but he died a bloated wreck in the prime of life.

These few examples pursued sin to their hurt. They rejected wisdom, and life spat them out like poison!

David was youngest of eight sons and a shepherd, ignored by his own family when Samuel came to anoint a king from Jesse's sons. But God saw the inner workings of his heart and promoted him over all his brothers, Saul's family, and every other man in Israel (*1Samuel 16:1-11*).

David exalted wisdom, and God promoted him! He was loved by Israel (*1Samuel 18:16*), Philistines (*1Samuel 29:9; 2Samuel 15:18-22*), and famous kings (*1Kings 5:1*)!

David had wisdom far beyond right thinking, speaking, and acting.

David had wisdom to see beyond this life and into the next. He saw and believed God's promises in Jesus Christ, and it was in the sweet comfort of that wisdom he died. He saw his Son and his Lord as the true object for life and death (*2Samuel 23:1-5; Psalm 110:1*)!

**The Ultimate Measure Of Folly
Is To Exalt This World
Without Regard For The Next!**

Proverbs 4:10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

Would you like a long life? Many are obsessed with life extension, as shown by the money and time spent on vitamins, medication, surgery, and diet and exercise programs.

This Proverb offers a long life; but few will be even interested, because it requires humility and obedience. Most people would rather pay for placebos and continue in sin and pride.

David taught Solomon to crave and value wisdom (*Proverbs 4:3-9*), and Solomon taught his son the same (*Proverbs 4:1-2*). By the emphasis of two generations, an exceptional father and grandfather, the importance of wisdom was made clear (*Proverbs 4:1-9*). Solomon then appealed to his son to hear and receive the fatherly advice he had been taught for a long life.

Solomon said, "*Hear, O my son.*" Men have trouble hearing advice, because their own feelings, thoughts, ideas, opinions, preferences, and goals are racing loudly through their selfish and conceited minds.

Others are too busy chasing vanity and do not have the time to listen. Only a few have the wisdom to make the time and shut down their own ignorant thinking to learn wisdom from another, whom God has appointed as a teacher (*Proverbs 18:1-2*).

Solomon said, "*Receive my sayings.*" Men resent correction, instruction, and reproofs, because pride refuses to admit they are wrong. The enslaving power of arrogance and conceit dooms most men to ignorance and failure (*Proverbs 26:12, 16*).

Men cannot learn, because they will not reject their ideas to admit another is wiser. Only a few have the wisdom to confess ignorance and learn from others

(*1Kings 3:7; Psalm 131:1-3; Jeremiah 1:6; Matthew 18:3-4*).

**God,
Parents,
And Pastors
Teach Wisdom.**

The Lord has written a lengthy book filled with wisdom in various literary forms. God gives parents to every child from their first moments to help them avoid the troubles of life.

And Jesus Christ ordained true pastors to feed His people with knowledge and understanding (*Jeremiah 3:15*).

Son, it is your duty to humble yourself before these ordained teachers (*Isaiah 66:2; Ephesians 6:1-3; 1Thessalonians 5:20*).

Learning wisdom will extend your life, and it will enhance your life. There is safety in wisdom that secures you from life's dangers and the judgment of God and men (*Proverbs 2:18; 3:2, 16; 5:5; 7:27; 8:36; 9:11, 18; 10:2; 11:4, 19; 12:28; 13:14; 14:12, 16:14, 25; 18:21; 21:6*).

There is a reward in wisdom that brings glory and honor (*Proverbs 3:16; 4:8-9; 22:4*).

Do you fully appreciate the value in hearing and receiving the sayings of your teachers?

Wisdom will extend your life naturally, especially the sayings of this book of Proverbs. Here are clear warnings against the life-shortening consequences of accidents, anger, a broken heart, capital punishment, crime, depression, disease, divorce, drunkenness, envy, fear, gluttony, grief, guilt, hatred, marital dysfunction, murder, STDs, stress, and strife. It is your wisdom to consider each of these sinful causes of premature death.

If you do not think the above things shorten life, you need to think again. Some will kill you directly; some will kill you indirectly. Consider just for starters the enormous power of psychosomatic illnesses, bodily breakdown from mental or spiritual problems.

It is a modern medical fact that a joyful and happy person in a monogamous marriage will outlive a single whoremonger of either sex.

**Wisdom Will Extend Your Life
Secure God's Blessings
And Avoid His Judgment.**

God will cut off the lives of the wicked (*Psalm 55:23; Ecclesiastes 7:17*).

God will extend the lives of the righteous (*Proverbs 10:27; Psalms 34:11-16; 91:14-16; 128:6; 1Timothy 4:8; 1Peter 3:8-12*).

Remember the reward for obeying parents (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

When God is on your side by obedience to His Word and teachers, you have done more, for your future health and longevity than any vitamin or exercise program!

Consider the shortened lives of the world's inhabitants (*Genesis 7:21-24*), Sodom's citizens (*Genesis 19:24-25*), Er and Onan (*Genesis 38:7-10*), Eli's sons (*1Samuel 2:25*), Nabal (*1Samuel 25:38*), Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 5:1-11*), Herod (*Acts 12:23*), and church members at Corinth (*1Corinthians 11:30*)!

This is no laughing matter, for we see it throughout the Old Testament; and we see it even among the church members of the New Testament.

Again through the Holy Spirit, Solomon wrote "*Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?*" (*Ecclesiastes 7:17*).

**It Is A Known Fact
Hard Living A Sinful Lifestyle
Shortens Life Expectancy.**

Reader, what will you do with the sayings of the teachers in your life? Will you hear and receive them and live? Or reject them and die?

Son, do you hear and receive your father's sayings? Do you gladly listen to your father and appreciate his correction, instruction, and warnings? Do you ignore him because he is out of touch with your foolish and vain world? Humble yourself (*Ephesians 6:1-3*)!

Father, do you say wise things to your son regularly? Or do you just bring home the bacon, vegetate with the television, and become a couch potato. You must teach him the wisdom of God (*Psalms 34:11; Ephesians 6:4; Joel 1:3*).

Father, do it, or you will cost him years of your child's life! Why did you have him in the first place, **If** you are not going to teach him to be wise?

God has spoken by His Word. Will you hear and receive the sayings?

God has sent pastors to feed His people from that Word. Will you hear and receive their sayings?

Natural and supernatural blessings depend on your choice. What will it be? Will you live a long and abundant life? Or will you be cut off early after living miserably?

Proverbs 4:11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

Consider this noble claim by the wisest parent! Read it again. Will you be able to say these Words at the end of your life? Can you say them today? Will God and your children agree with you? What have you done for your children today?

Have you taught your children how to have a long and prosperous life (*Proverbs 4:10*)?

Have you taught them how to avoid the distractions, troubles, and traps of life (*Proverbs 4:12*)?

Mothers, you are not exempted from this privilege and duty (*Proverbs 1:8; 4:3; 6:20*).

Our Proverb has three lessons:

1. The duty,
2. The content, and
3. The confidence of good parenting and teaching.

Read God's Words, and see all three lessons; and apply the lessons today. We must teach; We must teach the right things; We must teach confidently!

Graduating from high school or getting a college degree does not impress the Lord, nor does it help your children.

Most pagans have college degrees, and most college graduates are pagans. Only 1% of the saints in history even thought of going to college. These humanistic and worldly goals of the N.E.A. are foreign to Heaven and true success! The excellent spirit of Daniel and the unfeigned faith of Timothy are what we must cultivate!

The "*way of wisdom*" and "*right paths*" are contrary to a liberal arts education. These things, which lead to pleasing God and man in life, are no longer taught.

The scope and sequence of today's schools is a curriculum from hell to make little humanists. We must teach wisdom and true knowledge at home!

The pastor is not responsible, for a few hours a week, does not approach the daily instruction of faithful parents.

Are your children gracious? Very diligent at work? With high energy and focus? With sterling character? With financial wisdom? Do they hate sin? Being late?

Are they socially skilled? Good communicators? Considerate and generous? Do they know the Gospel? False doctrine? How to solve problems Scripturally?

Is their word as good as gold? Are they merciful and forgiving? Wise and prudent? Holy and pure? Are they esteemed in the real world? Are their names honored? Do they have many friends?

Parents, we must be bold, dogmatic, and critical; for Satan and the world, surely are enhancing their efforts to oppose us and abolish truth. We have the only answers, and we should say so. And we should reject anything to the contrary (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20*). What will you give your family tonight? Read a chapter of Proverbs and explain one verse to them. Every man can do this. One such small point made each day will soon form a mountain of wisdom. **If** you do not believe this, watch the ants in your yard!

The lesson here is not a suggestion for fathers, it is a commandment (*Ephesians 6:4*).

Let every man fulfill his charge from the LORD, and let him see the future with the eye of faith. A godly seed to God's glory, the defense of the faith, and the happiness of our families is well worth it.

Consider the duty, the content, and the confidence of teaching; and do it!

Proverbs 4:12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

Are you wearing fetters ^{shackles} or hobbles through life, which hold you back from success?

Do you stumble or fall over things you encounter, ending up in pain and trouble? Solomon gave fatherly advice, to his son to save him from life's difficulties (*Proverbs 4:10-11*).

Wisdom has incredible value. Because there are many pitfalls in life, wisdom and instruction are needed to save you from them. It is high time you appreciated knowledge more. (*Proverbs 4:1-9*)

**If You Learn Wisdom,
Your Steps Will Not Be Distressed
When You Go Through Life.**

What are straitened steps? It is a life that is limited, restrained, from enjoying the best in pleasure and prosperity. As a strait jacket binds and keeps a person from moving, natural foolishness binds and keeps a person from joy and success.

A great life, a truly successful life, can only be had through wisdom, which is why David taught Solomon, that wisdom was the most important thing (*Proverbs 4:7-9*).

David promised that wisdom would bring his son promotion and honor, **If** he would exalt and embrace it. Paul taught similarly by saying, "*Godliness with contentment is great gain*" (*1 Timothy 6:6*).

If a man chooses to remain foolish, he will miss a prosperous or successful life. His folly will hurt his relationships, so that his marriage and children are painful and troublesome.

By not working wisely, this man will never move far in his profession. Vulnerable to financial scams and poor investments, he will squander the little bit of money he does earn. Loving sleep and foolish pleasures, he will always be in the hole and feeling desperate.

What is running without stumbling? It is progressing rapidly through life, without all the adversity, pain, and trouble that fools suffer for their entire lives.

Every man will meet obstacles in life, but wisdom will save the prudent man from most of them. He will not trip and fall over difficulties like the fool. He will not fall flat in shame very often.

Life is short, and only wisdom will save you from the troubles that can ruin your life. Foolish men find that life is like a hedge of thorns, very difficult to get through (*Proverbs 15:19*).

It is an axiom of human existence that fools will have a hard life (*Proverbs 13:15*).

Without wisdom, man has no light to direct him, and he will stumble over life's surprises (*Proverbs 4:19*)!

If a man chooses to be a fool, he is asking for misery and pain (*Proverbs 8:36*).

Friends may entice him into a crime, and then he is a felon for life. A strange woman, looking ever so good, may ruin his marriage and reputation. A vain talker may deceive him into quitting a real job to pursue a business scam. Mooching friends may bankrupt him with cosigned loans.

**Wisdom Brings Promotion Honor
And Safety From Trouble
(Proverbs 4:1-11)!**

What More Would You Want?

Where Do We Find Wisdom? From the Bible, from parents, from pastors, and from wise counselors!

What Are The Conditions? You must humble yourself to receive correction and instruction from these sources, and you must apply yourself to practice what you learn.

If a man humbles himself before the Word of God and his teachers, and **If** he accepts and applies their

instruction, then God will guide him, protect him, and prosper him (*Proverbs 10:17; 13:18; 14:27; 15:32; Psalm 32:7-11; 34:11-22; 128:1-6*).

The way of the righteous is blessed! Why would you choose any other way?

Humble yourself today, and come meekly to Scripture and your teachers to find easy steps and smooth running for life.

Proverbs 4:13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

**Grab The Lifeline
Don't Let Go!
You Can Make It!
You Can Live!**

If you were drowning at sea, would you obey these Words from a sailor in a rescue boat? You would, because the consequences of not obeying would be certain death. You would, because holding a line is a very cheap price to pay, and easy effort to make, to save your life.

You may never face drowning at sea; but you will face drowning in the sea of life, when the storms of a sinful world come against you. Only by keeping instruction will you be able to survive the storm.

**The Lord Instructs Us:
By Parents,
By Pastors,
By His Word.**

Have you grabbed hold of this teaching to save your life (*Proverbs 3:18, 22; Ecclesiastes 7:12; Deuteronomy 32:45-47*)?

Our Proverb teaches us how to listen to instruction. We must grasp, with understanding, what we hear and not let it slip away.

The instruction of wisdom, is what will save us from the perplexities and dangers of life.

We must hold it tight and not let it go. We must retain what we learn. Don't sell it for any price (*Proverbs 23:23*)! See the comments on *Proverbs 3:1*.

Jesus described good hearers as those who took His sayings and built their lives on them (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

He told of two men: One who built his house on the sand, and one who built his house on a rock. The storms of life destroyed the house built on sand, but the one built on a rock easily withstood the storm. What do you do with instruction like this?

How much have parents and pastors taught you over the years? How much of it have you retained? Or is most lost and you need to hear it again? Do you make the same mistakes over and over again? Can you quickly and easily apply previous teaching to situations you meet in life? Can you defend what you believe?

**Here is our lesson:
Your Life Is Dependent On Your Retention
And Application Of The Instruction You Are Given!**

When you take fast hold of instruction: You fasten it in your grip. You ensure it cannot get away. You secure it in your mind you will always have it.

You are committed to learning from your teachers, and you are committed to not forget their words of wisdom.

Do you prove, review, and reflect upon teaching? Do you analyze and meditate upon it until it is part of your very soul and being?

If not, why not? It is for your life! Why must parents, pastors, and other teachers use so much repetition?

Most hearers are lazy, stubborn, and easily distracted. They do not appreciate instruction, and therefore they do not make the effort, or take the steps, necessary to keep it.

Effective learning requires: Dedication, discipline, attention, submission, retention, and application. See the comments on *Proverbs 12:1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish* (Insensible; stupid; Unfeeling; savage; Gross; carnal; Ignorant; uncivilized; untaught).

Do you love to be corrected and told how to live? Measure yourself by this question. For this is instruction! Loving to be corrected by biblical rules are how you can save your life.

But they only benefit those who retain them. It is for your life! Love correction and instruction!

Instruction is a great blessing from heaven, for great masses of men have been left without it by the sovereign judgment of God (*Psalm 147:19-20; Isaiah 44:9-20; Matthew 10:6; 15:24; 13:9-18; 2Thessalonians 2:9-13*).

We say God's ministers have beautiful feet, for the instruction, they bring us about eternal life and our duties to God (*Romans 10:15*).

All churches today would hold to perfect doctrine, **If** church members had held fast the instruction they were given by the apostles!

But men let those precious things slip away to where there are thousands of errors taught today in the name

of Christianity. The warning had been given clearly (*2Corinthians 11:3-4; 1Thessalonians 5:21; 2Thessalonians 2:15; Jude 1:3*).

If falling away from Old Testament truth brought judgment, how much more will falling away from New Testament truth (*Hebrews 2:1-4; 10:26-31; 12:25-29; Revelation 2:14-16*)?

Since our Lord Jesus alone had the Words of eternal life, have you retained them (*John 6:68*)?

Jesus said those who are given much will be accountable for much (*Luke 12:47-48*).

If you have been blessed with godly parents and pastors, you will be judged according to this blessing of instruction. Have you retained and kept it for the salvation of your life?

Proverbs 4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

Wickedness is wrong! Do you know that? You must avoid association with wicked persons and reject their lifestyles. Solomon warned his son against evil friends and their habits, for he wanted him to stay in the way of wisdom and right paths (*Proverbs 4:10-13; Psalm 1:1*).

The way of the wicked is dangerous and hopeless (*Proverbs 4:16-19*).

Stay far away from it (*Proverbs 4:15*)! You cannot embrace Lady Wisdom and enjoy her benefits while standing with sinners *Psalm 1:1*.

This simple rule is crucial, especially for youth: They are the most susceptible to evil influences of peer pressure.

They are more impressionable by what they see on television, which is nothing but glamorization, of the way of the wicked. They are more vulnerable to the insinuations and subtle instruction of false teachers.

This simple, personal rule of conduct, is crucial! *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners," (1Corinthians 15:33)*.

Why the warning about deception? Most think they can resist the seduction of ungodly persons. Others think, they can influence evil friends to righteousness. Both are wrong: a white glove in mud will always get muddy, but the mud will never become a white glove! Be not deceived!

David put it this way: *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful" (Psalm 1:1)*.

This personal rule of conduct, would have saved Lot (*Genesis 13:10-13*), Dinah (*Genesis 34:1*), Solomon (*1Kings 11:1-10*), Jehoshaphat (*2Chronicles 18:1-3; 20:35-37; 21:1-6*), and Peter (*Matthew 26:58*). What about you? Think it might help?

Do not even enter the path of the wicked. But **If** you find yourself there, do not go any further with them. Get out! Now!

Are you compromising, this crucial rule of personal conduct? Where do you work out? Will you only marry in the Lord? What school have you chosen? How righteous are your friends? What do you read? Can you avoid a certain subdivision if you have children? What music and television do you choose? Is there family you should avoid?

God is serious about separation from the wicked (*Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 22:24-25; 2Chronicles 19:2; Psalm 101:3-8; Romans 16:17-18; 1Corinthians 5:1-13; 2Corinthians 6:14-17; Galatians 1:6-9; Ephesians 5:11; 2Thessalonians 3:6; 1Timothy 6:5; 2Timothy 3:5; Titus 3:10-11; James 4:4; Revelation 18:4*).

You cannot get out of the world, but you must not conform to it (*Romans 12:1-2; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 1John 2:15-17*).

What is the lifestyle of the wicked? Habits and preferences that promote sin!

You can judge activities and places by those using them. Without analyzing rock-n-roll music directly, its artists, producers, and listeners should be enough, to condemn it, for they are wicked one and all. There is no reason to study nightclubs; those who build them and use them, love darkness.

How can you pray, *"Lead us not into temptation,"* but neglect, *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation"*? Do you need friends? Then make them good friends who will provoke you to godliness (*Proverbs 13:20; Psalm 119:63,79; Titus 1:8*).

A true church of Jesus Christ will provide you more friends with godly influence, than you can ever rightly love and serve!

Proverbs 4:15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

Get away from the evil path! Can't you see the warning? He repeated it four ways! The lifestyle of the wicked must be strictly avoided (*Proverbs 4:14*).

Do Not Follow The Wicked Or Learn Their Habits.

Do Not Befriend The World Reject Them.

Go In Wise And Right Paths (*Proverbs 4:11-13*).

Every parent worries about the peer pressure facing their children, and it was no different for Solomon. He told his son to walk in the way of wisdom and in right paths (*Proverbs 4:11-13*).

Solomon warned his son, against the path of the wicked and the way of evil men (*Proverbs 4:14-15*).

Many excuse their sin by saying, "But everyone is doing it!" Wisdom answers back, "That proves it is wrong!" For this world lies in wickedness (*1John 2:15-17; 5:19*).

Jesus said things highly esteemed by this world are an abomination to God (*Luke 16:15*).

To follow a crowd into sin and moral compromise is specifically condemned (*Exodus 23:2*).

To "avoid it" - is to keep clear of it or away from it, to have nothing to do with it, shun it.

To "pass not by it" - is to keep a safe distance, to not approach it, to choose a course in another direction.

To "turn from it" - is to change direction when you realize you are near it, to quit and get away from it.

To "pass away" - is to keep moving away, to put distance between you and it.

God's Words teach how we must reject the lifestyle of this world!

As a straitjacket is very restrictive, tight, and difficult to remove, so the way of wisdom is restrictive, tight, and difficult. So, Jesus called us to enter the strait gate and walk in the narrow way (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

The few that find and desire it must press into it by repentance and transformation (*Matthew 11:12; Luke 16:16*).

To do so, requires avoiding the wide gate and broad way that leads the foolish masses to destruction and hell. Though it is inviting and popular, God's saints will not even touch the unclean thing (*2Corinthians 6:14-17*).

A man blessed by God, a man walking with God, will not walk in the counsel of the ungodly, stand in the way of sinners, or sit in the seat of the scornful (*Psalms 1:1*).

He will not have anything to do with them. He despises their thoughts and their lives. He knows that friendship with this world is to be God's enemy (*James 4:4*).

So a man blessed by God, gets as far away as he can; he does not even want the temptation to join them in sin (*Romans 13:14*).

Do you even know, how vulnerable you are to the opinions and influence of others? Paul said, "*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*" (*1Corinthians 15:33*).

You may think you can resist the lifestyle or philosophy of the wicked, but Paul denies it! Small talk with them can create a big problem. You have to get away from them. You must hate their sinful folly and pleasures alike.

Go in the opposite direction and save yourself. See the comments in *Proverbs 13:20* and *Proverbs 19:27*.

Wise men will choose the way of righteousness and limit friends to those who fear God by their actions (*Psalms 119:63*).

You may have fewer friends here, but you are connected to a great company of angels and just men waiting with Jesus for you in heaven (*Hebrews 12:22-24*).

Proverbs 4:16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

Wicked friends and associates will destroy you. **If** you desire to grow in wisdom and godliness, you must avoid foolish companions. "*Evil communications corrupt good manners*" (*1Corinthians 15:33*).

Solomon warned his son to stay away from evil men (*Proverbs 4:14-15*).

**Their Hearts Are Controlled By Sin
And Their Thoughts Dedicated To It
(*Proverbs 4:16-17*).**

Good and evil are opposites, and good men and evil men are also opposites. They are perpetual enemies (*Proverbs 29:27*).

Wise and just men see clearly to live successful lives, and God blesses them with light (*Proverbs 4:18*).

Foolish and wicked men live in darkness, stumbling through a dysfunctional life by the blindness of their arrogant and ignorant hearts (*Proverbs 4:19*).

There are two kinds of people on earth, the righteous and the wicked.

While the wicked may perform outward acts that appear good, they come from a heart that is only evil in God's sight (*Psalms 14:1-3; Romans 3:9-18*).

While the righteous may sometimes live foolishly, yet they have a righteous heart that is vexed by sin (*Psalm 73:16-22; 2Peter 2:7-8*).

This Proverb and the next are Solomon's warning about the depravity of wicked men (*Proverbs 4:16-17*).

Mischief and wickedness are more important to them than sleep. They cannot rest nor be content unless they have corrupted and hurt others. Their wickedness and violence are their bread and wine. They must eat them every day to satisfy their hunger!

There is no such thing as a neutral men in this matter. Righteous men are the followers of Jesus Christ and godliness, and wicked men are the captive slaves of Satan and sin.

Men either base their lives on the absolute terms of the Bible, or they base them on the world's lies received from the devil. It is this great antagonism that makes worldly friends impossible for dedicated Christians.

The NEA, ACLU, PTA, NOW, MTV, CNN, FNN, UN, PETA, ECM, AFL-CIO, UAW, DNC, RNC, and organizations of this world are dedicated to the overthrow of Bible Christianity.

The individuals that make up these organizations, work day and night to break men from righteousness and truth. They cannot sleep until they get rid of Jesus Christ, His disciples, and His doctrine from the earth. Take a strong stand on any Bible subject and find out!

God and the wisest of men command you to avoid the world, reject their opinions, despise their lifestyle, and hate their offers (*Psalm 101:3-8; Romans 12:1-2; 2Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:7-13; James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17*).

No matter how subtle the insinuation or seductive the temptation against the absolute authority of the Bible, you must turn away with all your strength to avoid being corrupted (*1Corinthians 15:33; 1Timothy 6:3-5; 2Timothy 3:1-5*).

Proverbs 4:17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

Some people feed on wickedness. It is their diet. They get anxious and irritable, when they cannot sin and hurt other people. They have no pleasure in righteousness, for it does not satisfy their cravings for mischief and harm. They invent evil things, for their minds are always working to take advantage of others (*Romans 1:30*).

The world has many such people, and a wise man will do all in his power to avoid them and their ways (*Proverbs 4:14-17*).

The Bible is a figurative book, often using figures of speech and Words in secondary senses. The Bible is a spiritual book, often expressing itself by natural Words.

There are two metaphors in this Proverb, which can be converted to similes. The Proverb then reads, "They commit wickedness like eating bread, and they love violence like drinking wine." The previous Proverb indicates, this form of the metaphors, is to be chosen (*Proverbs 4:16*).

The heart of a wicked man is never content, he must be about his sinning. He cannot rest easily or sleep contentedly, because he must do mischief and cause others to fall (*Proverbs 4:16*).

His nature craves iniquity and trouble, like other men crave bread and wine. His inherited appetite, from Adam, is for sin and rebellion, not righteousness and peace. The wicked go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies (*Psalm 58:3; Romans 3:9-19*).

What causes such depravity? Men are born in the likeness of their father Adam (*Genesis 5:3*).

They are born dead toward God, but alive toward the devil (*Ephesians 2:1-3*).

The devil was a destroyer and murderer, and they follow his example and impulses (*John 8:44*).

Men are fools in love with malice and wickedness: they are hateful and hating one another (*Titus 3:3*). They are past feeling, and they greedily pursue lasciviousness (*Ephesians 4:17-19*).

David loved Solomon, and Solomon loved Rehoboam. Both fathers exhorted their sons to get wisdom, for it is the most important acquisition in life, and it would bring many blessings on their lives (*Proverbs 4:1-13*).

David loved Solomon went further and warned very strictly about the grave danger of having evil friends or companions (*Proverbs 4:14-17*).

David and Solomon knew that evil friends could easily corrupt their sons' good manners (*Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

So what is the lesson? Stay far away from such persons! Consider God's Words! He wrote, "*Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away*" (*Proverbs 4:14-15*).

Look carefully at God's Words! There is no room for any compromise with these kind of wicked persons. You cannot even go near them. You must be intolerant of them, their ideas, and their practices. They will

corrupt your good manners and take you down to destruction and hell with them. Stay far away!

You are no different from these cursed souls by nature. You were born just like them, and you lived just like them, until you were born again by the grace and power of God (*Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3-7*).

Eliphaz said of you and all men, "*How much more abominable and filthy is man, which drinketh iniquity like water?*" (*Job 15:16*).

Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save a man from his horribly depraved nature (*Romans 7:24-25*).

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

**Pay Attention!
This Proverb Is For Your Life!**

**God Confronts Every Man With Truth
At A Few Crucial Points In His Life.**

Most men rebel and reject these blessed confrontations, and God justifiably, blinds them with darkness to some or all truth.

Good men rejoice and obey the truth He offers, and God rewards them with further light and understanding. His light leads them ever onward to more truth, until they reach the day of perfect understanding.

Remember:

**A Way Is One Single Direction
Chosen To Take.**

**A Pathway Is A Direction
Chosen To Do Over And Over.
(*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25*)**

There are good "ways" and there are bad "ways." There are also good "pathways" and there are bad "pathways."

Solomon in context warned his son against the path of the wicked (*Proverbs 4:14-17*).

Solomon told him not to enter it or pass by it; he told him to avoid it, turn from it, and get away.

And after giving him the wonderful description of the pathway of the just in our Proverb, he told him that the pathway of the wicked is darkness; they don't even know what trips them (*Proverbs 4:19*).

There is sufficient evidence in the visible creation to know there is a God with eternal power and a Godhead.

Men are without an excuse. (*Psalm 19:1-6 Romans 1:18-20*)

When men become vain in their thoughts and reject this knowledge, God darkens their hearts and gives them up to ignorant thinking and conduct (*Romans 1:21-23*).

This is the root cause and source of the perversion of sodomy (*Romans 1:24-27*). Quite a dark pathway!

Consider Pharaoh. He rejected the LORD, even though the LORD used Moses to bring powerful signs and plagues upon his nation.

Therefore God hardened his heart, and he foolishly took his chariot down into the Red Sea to his own destruction. What blinded him to the obvious danger of such a choice? The LORD blinded him (*Exodus 14:4, 17*)!

God confronts men with truth from the Bible. If they reject the truth for any reason, He will blind their understanding and leave them to the delusions of their own hearts.

God promised to deceive prophets when men came to inquire of them with idols in their hearts (*Ezekiel 14:4-11*).

Jesus spoke in parables to harden the hearts of the Jews (*Matthew 13:10-17*).

And God sends strong delusion to cause men to believe lies, when they reject the truth He offers (*2Thessalonians 2:9-12*).

God owes no man the truth, and He will withhold truth and light from the man who squanders or rejects truth shown him. The Tower of Babel and the confusion there are not only true historical facts, but also an indication of judgment on men pursuing their own agenda (*Genesis 11:1-9*).

But the same sovereign God will bless just and good men. As our Proverb declares, He will provide a shining light that reveals more and more truth, as they obey what He has already revealed.

This is one of the greatest incentives to obey all truth that you are shown. He will either bless your obedience with more light, or judge your disobedience by taking away the light you think you have (*Luke 8:18*). Take heed my dear reader!

This light is not furnished to every man, for it shines only upon the path of the just. It is not for the backslider, the hypocrite, or the carnal compromiser.

The spiritual light of God, which brings wisdom, truth, and understanding, is for the just, the man who turns from his own foolish thoughts to do the perfect will of God (*Proverbs 3:33; 9:9; 11:9; 12:13, 21; 14:14; 20:7; 21:15; 24:16*).

How does a perfect day develop? It begins with a dull glow in the east, which seems quite weak in the blackness of the night. But the darkness soon gives way, as the sun rises from the horizon to drive away all remains of the night. As it climbs powerfully into the sky, its light increases in intensity and angle until everything is bright and clear under a noonday sun.

So is the LORD upon the path of the just; He shines more and more unto perfection, as a man does justly and walks humbly with his God (*Micah 6:8*).

Your car headlights only shine a short distance. But as you drive, they shine farther and farther. You are driving in the light provided, which shines a little way ahead. But as you trust your lights and drive forward, your lights shine farther ahead, until you reach your destination. Your lights guided you all the way home, as you trusted them each mile of the way.

Solomon did not have car headlights, but he did have lamps for pathways (*Psalms 119:105*).

Like these two pictures of a shining light, God sheds more light and reveals more truth, as we move forward, in obedience to the truth He has already given (*Proverbs 2:1-5; Job 17:9; Psalm 84:7; Hosea 6:3; 2Corinthians 3:18*).

For this reason, Solomon warns over and over again in many Proverbs for us to be attentive to instruction and obey it. The consequences of disobedience are severe. (*Proverbs 1:23; 8:32-33; 10:17; 12:1; 28:9; 29:1*)

Wisdom and truth are not dependent on intellect or teachers. They are dependent on faith and obedience.

Intellect and worldly education can be a severe handicap in learning God's wisdom (*1Corinthians 1:19-20*).

A young man can easily exceed wise old men, **If** he fears only God and trusts Him completely (*Job 32:6-9*).

You can easily exceed your enemies, teachers, and the ancients by trusting God's Word (*Psalms 119:98-100*).

Our Lord taught our Proverb in these Words, "*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself*" (*John 7:17*).

If we obey the will of God, we will know the true doctrine of God, for He will reveal more truth to us and confirm it in our hearts.

Nathanael, the apostles, the eunuch, and Cornelius found much light after obedience (*John 1:45-51; Luke 24:32; Acts 8:30-35; 10:6*).

Many men have faced the truth of God and rejected it:

For love of tradition, for fear of man, for job security, and for other snares (*Proverbs 29:25*).

How many rejected sound doctrine and ended up babbling with silly women and effeminate men in white suits? How many loved rituals and ended up with baptismal regeneration? How many sought government assistance and ended up in a dead, national church?

The consequences to your soul, family, and church from how you react to this Proverb are enormous.

If you stubbornly choose your own way, the LORD will blind you.

If you humbly submit to His Word, He will bless you with light and truth.

Where are you rejecting truth and conviction in your life today? Where are you holding on to tradition or fearing men more than you fear the Lord today? What is wrong in your life, family, or church that you are not correcting today?

Solomon warned, "*The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead*" (*Proverbs 21:16*). See the comments on this sober text.

Most of the churches in our nation are now such congregations, for they have left the Word of God for fables (*2Timothy 3:4-7; 4:3-4*).

You can be saved, from the death of ignorance, by taking careful heed to the more sure Word, which is as a light shining in a dark place, and which is more sure in its integrity than reports of hearing even God's voice from heaven (*2Peter 1:16-21*).

By doing this, you may be confident, of a day of knowledge dawning in your heart through the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, both now and at His appearing. So desire the sincere milk of His Word (*1Peter 2:2; 2Peter 3:18*).

The path of the just man extends beyond this life. A day is coming in which we will know with perfect knowledge. We shall be in the presence of the Lord Jesus, and we will know all things.

Until then we trust in His shining light and obey what we see, and we pray for the Spirit of enlightenment (*Ephesians 1:17-18*). Thank the Lord, for truth and light!

Proverbs 4:19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

Are you appalled at the stupidity of the human race, especially the present generation? You should be! Due to the depravity of their hearts and ignorance of their minds, they live in total darkness as to truth and wisdom.

They keep hurting themselves with what they cannot see, and their lives become more and more dysfunctional each passing day.

Solomon concludes a parallelism here. In the previous Proverb, he described the life of a just man as the shining light, which increases until the full light of the day is seen (**Proverbs 4:18**).

As a man learns and applies truth and wisdom, God gives him more understanding. In the same way the sun chases away darkness and eventually brings broad daylight.

But the wicked cannot see at all, for they walk in darkness. They do not know why they trip and fall, for they cannot see the errors in their thinking.

Wicked arrogance is a great curse, for there is more hope of a fool than a man who always thinks he is right (**Proverbs 26:12**).

The wicked rush on in sin, until suddenly it shocks them with painful results (**Psalms 36:1-2; 50:21-22**).

There are many examples of this Proverb. Wise men consider the world and humbly go to Scripture, lest they become as confused and ignorant as those around them.

Wise parents will show the world's folly and its painful consequences to their children. The sons of God should learn from the children of darkness (**Proverbs 29:27; Genesis 6:1-2; Psalm 139:21-22**).

God owes truth and wisdom to no man. He revealed His eternal power and Godhead in His creation (**Romans 1:18-20**).

When men reject this offer of knowledge, God justly darkens their hearts and leaves them in confusion (**Romans 1:20-23**).

Thus, the curse of sodomy and many other corruptions are God's judgment on rebellious men (**Romans 1:24-32; Ephesians 4:17-19**).

Consider: God mocking idolaters, who take leftover wood and worship it! They have a lie in their right hand and cannot let go (**Isaiah 44:9-20**)!

When men do not love the truth they are offered, God sends them strong delusion to believe lies and be damned (**2Thessalonians 2:9-12**).

God allows prophets to teach lies, when a man comes with idols in his heart (**Ezekiel 14:1-11**).

And He sent a evil spirit to Ahab, who had chosen wickedness (**1Kings 22:19-23**).

Consider: The lazy fool, pampers himself by sleeping in, but he is frustrated he cannot afford anything (**Proverbs 21:25**).

Consider: The fornicator, thinks he has found the ultimate pleasure, until he wakes up the loneliest man on earth (**Proverbs 5:4-5**).

Consider: The modern mother, she chooses to coddle her children rather than train them, but they disgrace her to shame (**Proverbs 29:15**).

Consider: The lustful fool dates a woman for her body, and he cannot grasp how he ended up in marital hell (**Proverbs 30:21-23; 31:30**).

Consider: Politicians get elected, by offering welfare, but they are confused, by reductions in productivity and increases in outlays!

Consider: The carnal Christian, watches television every night, but blames the pastor for preaching boring sermons!

Consider: The modern woman, aborts two unborn babies, but she suffers a nervous breakdown when her neighbors get in a fight!

Consider: The evolutionist, teaches man came from monkeys, but he wants police protection from the baboons in the hallway!

Consider: The intellectual, rejects the idea of a Creator and ends up following Freud's insane infatuation with his own bodily waste!

Think the world is getting more enlightened? Only the educated idiots of the past few generations could believe in evolution!

Paul warned that evil men and seducers would get worse and worse (**2Timothy 3:13**).

The moral decline of mankind is obvious. Simply view its art, listen to its music, read its books, watch its youth, count its divorces, measure its contentment, calculate its chemical dependency, number its suicides. There is light in Scripture! It can save you from the insanity of the world. Listen to the psalmist. "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path*" (**Psalm 119:105**).

"The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes" (**Psalm 19:8**).

"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles" (Psalm 43:3).

There is light in the Proverbs! *"For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life" (Proverbs 6:23).*

Isaiah wrote, *"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).*

The Word of God Is Better Than God's Voice From Heaven!

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts" (2Peter 1:19).

Jesus Christ Is The Light Of The World

Only those drawn by the Father ever come to His Light (*John 1:5; 3:19; 6:44-45*).

Jesus Christ was a stone of stumbling to most (*1Peter 2:8*), which the apostles continued, by not modifying the Gospel (*1Corinthians 1:22-24*).

God had foretold this darkness, and Jesus justly perpetuated it (*Isaiah 8:13-15; Matthew 13:10-17*).

If you can comprehend Jesus Christ, it is by God's mercy (*Matthew 11:25-27*).

You must already be born again, for prior to regeneration, a man cannot see or hear anything truthfully spiritual (*John 3:3; 8:43; 1Corinthians 2:14*).

Cast yourself today on, God's mercy in Christ, and you will not be confounded in the great day coming to this world (*Luke 3:7; 1Peter 2:6*).

Proverbs 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

How well do you pay attention to instruction? Do you really hear what you are taught?

Solomon was a great king, a very wise man, and a loving father. He knew his son's success depended on learning from his vast experience and wisdom.

Solomon had seen his son shortly after birth, had watched him during childhood, and had witnessed his foolishness during puberty and adolescence. He knew his son knew nothing and had everything to learn!

Proverbs is the book of wisdom, designed to teach understanding. Since all men arrive as helpless and ignorant infants, there is a great learning curve, to take them from the breast and diapers to be the sober and successful leaders of others.

Solomon knew the keys, were humility and attention to the instruction, of God's Word, of parents and of teachers, so he emphasized these points often: (*Proverbs 1:8; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1-5; 5:1, 7; 6:20; 7:24; 8:32-33; 19:20; 22:17; 23:12*).

Consider your own progress. You did not know your own name for many months, were fed from a bottle, and dirtied your own clothes and bed.

It took you a year to learn how to stumble. Tying your shoes and learning to ride a bicycle were difficult tasks.

Spelling words with four letters and adding numbers with four digits were hard assignments. You were terrified during your first written examination to get a drivers' license.

But you learned your name, how to eat, how to use the toilet, how to walk, how to tie shoelaces, how to ride a bike, how to spell and add, and you eventually passed your drivers' test. How did this progress occur?

You were taught and trained by others with more experience and wisdom than you.

You had to listen and learn, for children kept alone in a room without instruction will not acquire these learned skills. Life has much greater challenges than riding a bike.

What is the basis of wisdom? Is working hard important? What does God hate? Does pride affect judgment? How is a beautiful woman dangerous? Can offended rulers be appeased? What makes a good wife? How are children trained? Can I get ahead on my job? What are bad financial risks? How is tattling wrong? Am I a true friend?

These questions and many others like them are only answered by wise instruction, which you must hear, comprehend, retain, and apply.

Public education programs teach children to believe and think as the state deems best.

Since God with written Scripture is a threat to humanism and social experiments, children are taught they came from monkeys.

They are also taught the contradictory lies of socialism, self-love, free expression, rights of the individual, animal protection, child abortion, human progress, approval of sodomy, and so forth.

Living in a modern world with mass media, parents must teach and warn children against such profane nonsense.

Are you a good listener and learner? Or do you daydream? Or are you already thinking of your next words? Here is the difference between success and disaster.

A wise man listens well, because he knows that is the only way to learn.

A fool, thinking he already has all the answers, refuses to listen and remains ignorant for the rest of his life.

Wise men always listen better than fools: then they get wiser, and fools stay foolish (*Proverbs 9:7-9*).

**A Sure Proof Of Wisdom
Is Your Humility To Hear Instruction
And Apply It To Your Life.**

The Lord Jesus Christ told Pontius Pilate that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth (*John 18:37*).

Pilate, like most educators and politicians, scornfully rejected the idea of truth (*John 18:38*). Jesus told His hearers to be careful "*how*" they listened to the truth.

If they were diligent and eager, He would bless them with knowledge.

If they were negligent, He would take from them the little truth they thought they had (*Luke 8:18*).

Hearing is not a take-it-or-leave-it offer, when it comes to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and He expects His preached and printed Words to command your attention and obedience.

Jesus Christ promised to punish His own people Israel for not hearing (*Isaiah 30:8-14; Jeremiah 13:16-17; 22:5-9, 20-26; Malachi 2:1-3; Acts 3:22-23*).

These things are only worse today, when so-called Christians, will not endure sound doctrine, but instead follow after entertainers that will satisfy their lusts with fables (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

It is now common for children to yawn, sleep, scorn, or leave when parents correct, instruct, or warn them.

It is common for church members to doze, look around, daydream, read their Bible, or leaf through a hymnal while the pastor preaches the truth of God's Word.

The certain rule is that such children and members are always the losers. Your only hope for success is to humble yourself and learn the instruction and wisdom

first of all from parents, then pastors, and always by the infallible Word of God.

Proverbs 4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

To what are you looking at? What are you aiming for? What has your attention? And what do you hold dear in your heart? This Proverb has sober Words of advice and warning from the Holy Spirit to Solomon's son (*Proverbs 4:20-22*).

Childhood and youth are vanity: the eyes and hearts of young men are easily distracted with foolishness (*Ecclesiastes 11:10*).

Solomon tried to focus his son on the great goals of wisdom and understanding. Your eyes are the means of sight for your whole body.

Vision is the ability to see what is in front of you and direct your body accordingly. Men take great pains and pay great prices to see clearly, for their physical skills are only as useful as their ability to direct their bodily movements by their eyes.

Hand-eye coordination is considered a most precious gift and a certain indicator of physical aptitude.

From the importance of physical eyes, men make a figurative use of mental eyes: setting priorities and making choices for life.

For example, when the coach or instructor says, "Keep your eyes on the goal," it is understood to mean that everything in that person's life should be directed toward the chosen objective.

It does not mean that the athlete or student should stare without blinking at some visual object. Focused sight on one goal, and choices serving that goal, is the road to success in any endeavor (*1Corinthians 9:24-27*).

Your mental eyes direct your life and set your priorities. So your eyes must be focused on one object "wisdom" or you will lose in life!

Jesus Christ taught it by these Words: "*The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness.... No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon*" (*Matthew 6:22-24*).

But there is another figure of speech in this Proverb. Solomon told his son to keep these Words and sayings in the midst of his heart.

Your physical heart is the basis of life for your body, for it pumps the blood that is the life of your flesh (*Proverbs 14:30; Leviticus 17:11*).

Your figurative heart is the seat of your affections, where you choose what you will love and value.

**A Wise Man
Will Choose To Love Wisdom
And Value It Highly
(Proverbs 4:6; 8:17, 21, 36)**

Just as with your eyes, your heart must be single (focused on one goal).

Since wisdom and pleasing God, are contrary to all that is in this world, you cannot succeed trying to please both. You must purify your heart from being double minded to a single goal, because a double minded man is unstable in all his ways (*James 1:8; 4:8*).

How focused are you, in eyes and heart, toward pleasing God (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Hebrews 12:1-3*)?

Proverbs 4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

**The Words Of Wisdom
Are Crucial For Your Life!**

If you find and keep them, they will bring prosperity and success to your life.

If you find and keep them, they will bring function and vitality to your existence.

However, you must first submit yourself to the instruction of wisdom, and then you must retain what you have been taught (*Proverbs 4:20-21*).

You have seen lives, so messed up, that it is easy to think death might be a mercy.

You have seen lives, so dysfunctional and painful, that it is easy to wonder why they were ever born.

You have seen lives, so distressed and troubled, that it is easy to describe their lives as hell on earth.

Wisdom saves men, from such terrible and wasted lives.

Wisdom is life to those that find it!

Wisdom teaches a person how to live joyfully and successfully.

Some men think that eliminating laws and rules would bring happiness and success. They foolishly think that freedom to do as they wish would bring pleasure.

What do the foolish think will keep their neighbors from killing them and taking what they want?

Some think, the laws of God's Word, are onerous and restrictive. It is by these wise precepts and statutes that people live together most happily, prosperously, and securely.

Without divine guidance in the form of commandments: men would not know how to treat parents, spouses, children, neighbors, magistrates, or employers. They would not know how to make marriage, family, business, church, or society work at all.

Without the knowledge or restraint of wise laws, humanity might practice polyandry ^{more than one husband}, witchcraft, cannibalism, incest, child sacrifice, sodomy, insect worship, necrophilia, or a host of other abominations, as has happened and is happening, in many nations not having the light of God's laws.

What do these profane activities accomplish? They promote war, disease, death, dysfunction, poverty, misery, and ignorance. Nations long without the Word of God are third world, or even fourth world! They are unbelievably backward and typically morally corrupt.

Light and progress, in nations, are by the Word of God alone, and the nations that promote it are blessed indeed (*Proverbs 8:12-21; Psalm 33:12; 144:15*).

**There Is Wisdom In
The Inspired Word Of God!**

Moses told Israel, "*And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it*" (*Deuteronomy 32:46-47*).

Do you see it? The Words of God's law are your life! To live your life without God's Words is insanity! The abominations and degradation of the present world proves clearly.

Moses told his successor, Joshua, that he could achieve success and prosperity by remembering, meditating upon, and obeying God's law (*Joshua 1:7-8*).

Jesus came bringing even greater light than Moses, and He promised life and more abundant, by keeping His sayings (*John 1:4, 17; 10:10*).

Do you consider the Word of God more valuable than fine gold and sweeter than honey (*Psalm 19:11*)? Why not?

Do you consider His Words more than your necessary food (**Job 23:12**)? You should.

They are life and health for body and soul. Neglect His Word to your own peril and pain! Read it for great pleasure and profit.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Your Heart Is Your Most Valuable Asset

We are not talking about the muscle beating 70 times a minute in your chest. We are talking about the inner, decision-making part of you that loves certain things and chooses to do them over other things.

You can keep your heart good, or you can let it become bad. You can be diligent in this project, or you can be lazy.

As a child of God, your old man tempts you toward evil, and your new man exhorts you toward righteousness. Your heart chooses between them.

It is a series of choices that every Christian makes each day, that determines who he really is. What are you going to do today?

Whatever Is In Your Heart Comes Out In Your Life.

If your heart is full of good things, your life will show that goodness.

If your heart is full of sinful thoughts, your life will show them.

Consider this Scripture: **Mark 7:20-23** *And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.*

21 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed*¹*evil thoughts,*²*adulteries,*³*fornications,*⁴*murders,*

22 ⁵*Thefts,*⁶*covetousness,*⁷*wickedness,*⁸*deceit,*⁹*lasciviousness,*¹⁰*an evil eye,*¹¹*blasphemy,*¹²*pride,*¹³*foolishness:*

23 *All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.*

Every human being has these 13 defilements, resident in their heart. Only obeying the Word of God, keeps these defilements from manifesting outwardly.

The vast majority of tests and decisions, you will face in life are dependent on your heart, and so are the small choices that we make, hundreds of times a day.

Have you kept your heart pure? Are you working hard to keep it pure today? Do you know that laziness in this area will bring severe trouble and pain to your life?

Our Lord Jesus condemned the Pharisees for emphasizing man's outward appearance; and He emphasized man's heart instead. He said the following in two different places: *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.* **Matthew 12:34-35**

But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man. **Matthew 15:18-19**

Sin Begins In The Heart.

1. Lust for a sin attracts your heart,
2. So you think about it. (evil thoughts: the root)
3. If you think about it enough, you will do it.
4. The result of this choice is death.

You can, protect yourself, by keeping your heart diligently from sinful thoughts (**James 1:13-16**).

How can you keep a pure heart? Protect it from outside influences toward sin, and supply it with outside influences toward holiness (**Psalm 101:3; 119:11, 63; 101:6; 1Corinthians 15:33**).

Since even thinking of foolishness is sin (**Proverbs 24:9**) and desiring another woman is adultery (**Matthew 5:28**), we must often examine our hearts with the Lord's help (**Psalm 139:23-24**).

Because the Lord Jesus sees your heart clearly (**Hebrews 4:12**), your diligence will be rewarded (**2Chronicles 16:9**) and your laziness will be punished (**Ezekiel 14:3-8**).

David, the almost-forgotten eighth son of Jesse, was chosen over all his older and successful brothers to be king of Israel, because he had a pure heart like the Lord's.

What a glorious goal! Is this your holy ambition today?

Proverbs 4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

**Rule Your Speech!
Guard Your Tongue!
Mark Your Words!**

After keeping his heart with all diligence, from which are the issues of life, Solomon warned his son to reject ungodly speech (*Proverbs 4:23*).

Beginning with the thoughts and intents of the heart, wisdom demands you govern: your speech (*Proverbs 4:24*), your eyes (*Proverbs 4:25*), and your feet (*Proverbs 4:26-27*). Precious advice!

It is impossible to have godly and gracious speech without a pure heart, for it is the content of the heart that feeds the mouth (*Matthew 12:33-35*).

You can always tell a good heart, by kind and holy words, and you can always tell a bad heart, by harsh or carnal words. Jesus said it!

Kings love the perfect man who speaks graciously from a pure heart (*Proverbs 22:11*).

This Proverb is not warning you to stay away from those with froward mouths and perverse lips, for that is given elsewhere (*Proverbs 14:7; 19:27; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

This Proverb is warning you to get rid of your own froward mouth and perverse lips. The context is ruling your own heart, lips, eyes, and feet (*Proverbs 4:23-27*).

Solomon addressed his son and told him to listen and submit to his fatherly instruction (*Proverbs 4:20*).

Solomon then exhorted him to keep his advice directly before him, and firm in his resolve (*Proverbs 4:21*).

And Solomon encouraged him, by saying that it would give him life and health (*Proverbs 4:22*).

Then in order, Solomon told his son, to guard his heart, lips, eyes, and steps (*Proverbs 4:23-27*).

A foolish mouth will ruin your reputation (*Ecclesiastes 5:3; 10:12-14*).

An offensive mouth will get you in trouble with other men (*Proverbs 12:13; 13:3; 14:7; 18:6-7; 22:10; 24:9*).

And ultimately, you will give account of every idle word in the day of Judgment (*Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 12:36-37; Ephesians 5:3-6*).

Kind and wise speech will build your reputation (*Proverbs 15:4; 18:20; 24:26*).

Appropriate words will enhance your relationship with men (*Proverbs 10:32; 15:23; 16:13; 25:11*).

And God is pleased with constructive and helpful words (*Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6*).

You can improve your speech by cutting your words in half, if you tend to talk more than the average person (*Proverbs 17:27; James 1:19*).

You then must rule your spirit, for it can kindle the fire from hell! Then you have to avoid arguments (*Proverbs 16:32; 26:4-5; 2Timothy 2:23; James 3:3-8*).

If you keep your heart at peace with the Lord and man, it will be difficult for you to spout harsh or painful things.

If you keep your heart pure with the Lord and man, it will be difficult for you to have foolish or carnal speech.

If you fill your mind with noble things, you will have precious material for conversation (*Philippians 4:8*). Lord, guard our tongues!

Proverbs 4:25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

How is your vision? Forget detail, distance, or depth. How is your directional vision? Do you see straight ahead, or do you have peripheral vision?

Peripheral vision, or seeing things from the corner of your eye, is a good thing for driving and sports; but it is horrible for saints. We must see only one object, God, His kingdom, and His righteousness.

Having told us to keep our hearts with all diligence, the Holy Spirit warns against peripheral distractions, either left or right (*Proverbs 4:23; 4:26-27*).

We must establish our direction straight ahead and keep going in that direction (the single goal of pleasing the Lord).

"Eyes" and "eyelids" are synecdoche, where part of a thing represents the whole. The Holy Spirit, doesn't care about the little flap of skin that covers your eyeballs. He wants your heart and mind and soul. He wants all of you.

In the last eight verses of this chapter, the Holy Spirit lists ear, eyes, heart, flesh, heart, mouth, lips, eyes, eyelids, feet, and hand. Our eyes select objects and direct our movements toward them, but it is our heart and mind that give and receive feedback from our eyes.

Heart and eyes cannot be separated. It is our overall person, eyes included, we must keep in the way of wisdom.

The Lord Jesus taught against spiritual peripheral vision with similar language. And we should look unto Him as the great example of perfect vision for our souls (*Hebrews 12:1-4*).

The context of the Lord's Words will let us learn their sense and application (**Matthew 6:19-24**).

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matthew 6:22-23.

The Lord condemns laying up treasure on earth, when you can lay up treasure in heaven; for your heart will follow your treasure (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

And the Lord denies that any man can serve two masters (God and mammon 'money') (**Matthew 6:24**).

If a man's natural vision directs his bodily movements, then a blind eye is a horrible thing, for the body cannot know where to move. Considered spiritually, an eye with undivided honesty, loyalty and zeal for God will lead to holiness; but a double eye of hypocrisy and worldly lusts will lead to destruction. So, mark well the Savior's warning!

Consider an obscure reference to soldiers in 1Chronicles. Zebulun brought 50,000 fighting men, who were of one heart for David (**1Chronicles 12:33**). They had no mixed emotions. They were not thinking about going home. They were not thinking about anything else.

Jesus rejoiced to see Nathanael, for his heart was free from duplicity, hypocrisy, and a double mind (**John 1:47**). He was an Israelite indeed, fully committed to his God.

The Christian life is a race (**1Corinthians 9:26; Hebrews 12:1**). To win, runners must look straight ahead without being distracted by competitors or other things.

Paul pressed forward, not looking sideways, to win the prize of God's high calling, and he described those, with peripheral vision for worldly things, as belly worshippers (**Philippians 3:13-14, 3:18-19**).

Wicked men have a double heart (**Psalms 12:1-2**).

Wicked men are not totally committed to the Lord and spiritual things. Their hearts still lust after this world and its things.

Wicked men are carnally minded, and they show little evidence of grace in their hearts. You can spot them easily, for they never talk about the Lord with the same passion as their own things.

James warns twice against being double minded, or having more than one objective for our lives (**James 1:8; 4:8**).

The Holy Spirit through James, says a double minded man is unstable in all his ways, and he exhorts saints to diligent efforts to reduce their objectives to only one (**James 4:8-10**).

Eve was seduced by her wandering eyes (**Genesis 3:6**).

Lot's wife could not keep from looking back (**Genesis 19:17, 26**).

Achan "saw" Babylonian goods and money that cost him his life (**Joshua 7:21**). And

David took what he saw one night from a rooftop (**2Samuel 11:2**).

Our prayer should be for God to keep our eyes from seeing vanity (**Psalms 119:37**).

The eyes is one of the great temptations of man (**1John 2:15-17**).

So careful was Job in his pursuit of holiness, he made a covenant with his eyes against thinking upon young beautiful women (**Job 31:1**). Contrast him with false teachers (**2Peter 2:14**).

The first church, under the powerful influence of the Holy Ghost, had a single mind with God and each another (**Acts 2:46**). They were undivided in their dedicated and solitary ambition of serving the Lord. Things in the corner of their vision did not distract them.

Godly men serve masters with single hearts. Their solitary goal is to please the Lord on the job, regardless of what others may think. (**Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22**)

Godly men do not seek, a raise or promotion as their principal objective, for they see only God's reward.

What distracts your vision and progress? You need only one goal, pleasing God with a holy life and preparing for heaven. Put on your blinders and keep your eyes and motion straight ahead. Look only forward, only upward, and only heavenward!

Did our Lord Jesus have any other objectives in His life on earth? None! Did things around Him distract him? Never!

Though he had food, honor, and glory offered to Him by the devil, He remained absolutely faithful. His one goal, pleasing His Father by a perfect life and death!

**Let Us Follow Our Great Example
With His Singular Vision!**

***Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet,
and let all thy ways be established.***

Wise men do not simply let life happen to them. They do not act without careful thought and sober reflection.

Wise men plan and manage their lives. They choose wise goals and the means to achieve them, and they compare their progress to them.

Wise men fix their lives in one steady course, rather than bouncing from one goal to another.

Wise men temperately discipline all aspects of living toward this goal.

Wise men carefully consider every part of life. They question, evaluate, and muse upon each choice they make to keep their overall goal.

So, where are you going? Ponder the path of your feet. Is getting older all you are doing? Is life happening to you, rather than you directing it?

Your daily and weekly routines should have a solid purpose and noble objective. Or are you on treadmill, in a rut, not making any progress?

Step back; ponder the path of your feet. Examine yourself (**2Corinthians 13:5**). Consider your ways (**Haggai 1:5**). Commune with your own heart (**Psalms 4:4**).

What Does It Mean To Ponder? It means to weigh a matter mentally, it means to consider it carefully, it means to think about it, it means to muse over it, and it means to meditate upon it.

Most are too busy, with too much noise and activity, to stop and think soberly about their lives. Instead of musing, they seek amusements (activities designed to stop all thinking).

Instead of quiet time, to reflect on their lives, they have radios in their cars, televisions in their homes, and cell phones in their pockets. *"God is not in all his thoughts"* (**Psalms 10:4**).

The foolish, do not know where they are going, why they are going, in a certain direction, or the consequences of it.

Wisdom says, the activities of wise and holy men is to:
"Be still, and know that I am God" (**Psalms 46:10**).
"Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah" (**Psalms 4:4**).

"I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search" (**Psalms 77:6**).

"But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him" (**Habakkuk 2:20**).

**It Is The Fool
Who Lives Without Thinking,
Walks Without Meditating,
Chooses His Path Without Pondering!**

Christians are called to walk circumspectly; examining their path from all angles! Only by this discipline can they understand and apply, God's will to their lives (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).

**It Is Your Duty
To Make Straight Paths
For Your Feet
(Hebrews 12:13)!**

What should you ponder?

- Are you walking with God and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ?
- Are you bearing much spiritual fruit?
- Is your marriage what it should be?
- Do you have activities in your life that create temptation and lead to sin?
- Are you single minded for the kingdom of God?
- Do you live with eternity in view?
- If you were to die today, would Jesus Christ find you in the way of righteousness?
- Is your life leading toward the holy objective of pleasing Christ?
- Does your path on Sundays, include a faithful church, where all doctrine and practice matches the Scriptures?
- Are your priorities consistent with those Holy Spirit lists in this book?
- Do you read, meditate, pray, and sing in private on a regular basis?

Ponder The Path Of Your Feet.

If you are a father, have you pondered the path your wife and children are taking? It is your duty before God to lead, guide, and correct them into the right way.

The true measure of your duty and love is to prepare and perfect them to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you helping them, keep their feet, in the pathway of righteousness?

What keeps you from pondering the path of your feet? Whatever it is, it is not worth the danger of wandering out of the way of understanding and remaining in the congregation of the dead (**Proverbs 21:16**). See the comments on **Proverbs 21:16**.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (**Proverbs 14:12; 16:25**).

If you don't ponder your ways, the LORD is pondering them, especially the sexual ones (**Proverbs 5:21**)! See the comments on **Proverbs 5:21**.

Do not neglect or forget this sacred duty to ponder your feet! The LORD: Jehovah and Jesus are His names, calls to you, no less than to Abraham. *"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Genesis 17:1).*

If you will answer this call, the LORD will send you visible and invisible teachers. *"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).*

The psalmist said, *"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies" (Psalm 119:59).*

Will you join the psalmist in this frequent duty of pondering your life? *"Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD" (Lamentations 3:40).* Make this effort a part of your daily exercise in prayer (**Psalm 139:23-24**).

Your flesh, the world, and Satan will daily lay snares in the way. You will face many even today. They will seek, to tempt and trap you in your thoughts, your speech, your relationships, your job, and elsewhere.

It is your duty to consider your ways carefully and avoid those snares.

It is your duty to turn away, quickly, from every tempting and threatening situation (**Proverbs 4:14-15; Romans 13:14; 2Timothy 2:22**).

After pondering the path of your feet, it is your duty to fix and secure all your ways in the fear of the Lord.

How do you identify the fear of the Lord for your life? By the Holy Scriptures! They are the lamp for your feet and the light for your path (**Psalm 119:105**).

The sure rock, of Christ's Words, must be the foundation of your house (**Matthew 7:24-27; 2Peter 1:19-21**).

Establish - fix and settle permanently - all your ways in the Lord! And the grace of God is able to bless you toward this glorious life (**1Peter 5:10; 1Thessalonians 3:12-13**)!

True disciples that continue in the Word of Christ (**John 8:31**).

True disciples are not moved away from the hope of the gospel, but rather continue in the faith grounded and settled (**Colossians 1:23**).

It is by this, confident and established perseverance, in the truth, that we show we are the true brethren of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 3:6, 14**). Lord, keep us by your grace!

Proverbs 4:27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

The way of wisdom: The road of righteousness, the highway of holiness, the path of purity leads straight forward (**Proverbs 4:26-27**).

The warning is clear! Do not veer from the road into the swamp of sin on either side. And the remedy is also clear!

If you have already veered into the swamp, then jerk your foot out of the mess and leap back onto the road.

God laid out a path for every saint to walk. It is clearly defined with bright markers and warning signs in the Word of God (**Psalm 119:105**).

And God sent teachers, to make sure you don't misread the roadmap. God promised they will help by saying, *"This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).*

Solomon taught his son to keep his eyes looking only forward. He said, *"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee" (Proverbs 4:25).*

The world offers many enticements to leave the highway and venture into the swamp of lust and sin. The allurements and invitations are very deceiving and catchy. You cannot and should not even look at them.

Solomon also told his son to carefully consider exactly where he was walking, and to walk only where he had solid reasons to do so.

The Holy Spirit said, *"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established" (Proverbs 4:26).*

It is the duty of every Christian to prove, everything he does by the Word of God, and reject any contrary opinion or activity (**Isaiah 8:20; 1Thessalonians 5:21**).

Most men do not like a restrictive way of living. They want to do their own thing; they want to have it their way. They want to taste the pleasures of sin. (**Matthew 7:13**)

There are very few like Moses, who gave up great worldly advantages to stay on the road to heaven with the people of God (**Hebrews 11:24-26**).

**The Billboards Alongside
Of Satan's Swamp**

Are Very Appealing!

Most men resent, sound doctrine and dogmatic preachers, telling them, what they should or should not do (*2Timothy 4:1-4*).

Most men want entertainers, who will tickle their ears with nice stories. They are tired of the strait and narrow way (*Matthew 7:14*).

So most men find compromisers who will lead them into the swamp of carnal Christianity (*Isaiah 30:8-11*).

The LORD Gave The Word It Is Absolute And Final!

Variations from His Word, are judged severely. Ask Cain, who thought God would like his clean offering (*Genesis 4:1-5*).

Ask Nadab and Abihu, who tried contemporary worship (*Leviticus 10:1-2*).

Ask Moses, who thought smiting the rock was close enough (*Numbers 20:7-13*).

Ask Saul, who pleased the people with an innovation in worship (*1Samuel 15:22-26*).

Ask David about moving the ark on a new ox cart (*2Samuel 6:1-9; 1Chronicles 15:13-15*).

Ask Uzziah, who thought he had a ministry (*2Chronicles 26:16-21*).

The LORD has spoken regarding most of your life. Do not even think about looking or turning to either side. Trust Him and His Word! Reject your own understanding (*Proverbs 3:5-6*). Love His precepts regarding all things, and hate any other opinion (*Psalms 119:128*). Don't even think about adding something of the world's religious practices (*Deuteronomy 12:29-32*).

If you have already foolishly turned aside after the world and entered the swamp of sin, either in private habits or lusts or public worship, there is only one remedy. Repent!

Get out of your sin and back on the road of righteousness now! Repent! Cut out your sinful habits! Leave your compromising church! Repent! Remove thy foot from evil!

The LORD Gave The Word It Is Absolute And It Is Final!

Variations are judged severely. But repentance can save you.

Ask David, who was forgiven of adultery and murder (*2Samuel 12:13*).

Ask Manasseh, who was forgiven of the most heinous sins (*2Chronicles 33:12-13*).

Ask Nineveh, who saved their city from total destruction (*Jonah 3:10*).

Ask the church at Corinth, who saved their lives and church by godly repentance (*2Corinthians 7:9-11*).

The way of wisdom, the road of righteousness, is straight. Do not turn even a little. Do not modify God's commandments even a little.