

REFOCUS

Refocus on Godly Wisdom

Proverbs 4:20-27

GODLY WISDOM

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

- The Bible urges us to seek wisdom above everything else
- But there are different kinds of wisdom; *the wisdom of the world* and *the wisdom of God*
- The wisdom of the world ***1 Corinthians 3:19 (NLT) 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As the Scriptures say, "He traps the wise in the snare of their own cleverness."***
- Worldly wisdom is not concerned with honoring God, but only pleasing oneself
- Godly wisdom is from God and honors God it sees and lives life from God's perspective
- Godly wisdom functions and behaves differently than worldly wisdom ***Matthew 5:43-45 (KJV)***
- God's available to all who ask for it James ***1:5 (NLT) 5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.***
- We all are prone to making mistakes, but the wise learn from their mistakes and take steps to avoid repeating them
- When we are committed to God and His Word, God pours out His wisdom on us ***Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV) 13 And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.***
- The primary way to gain godly wisdom is learning the Word of God ***Psalms 119:169 (KJV) 169 Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.***
- Godly wisdom is also a product of the company you keep ***Proverbs 13:20 (NLT) 20 Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.***

PAY ATTENTION TO MY WORDS

Proverbs 4:20-22 (KJV) My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

- Solomon in Proverbs 4 was urging his son to follow the way of wisdom
- Solomon told his son to *attend* or pay attention to his words
- Our ears play a vital role in receiving wisdom.
- Wisdom is imparted on an ongoing basis, not just one time
- Parents can't think their job is done because they offer wisdom to their children one time
- As believers we have a responsibility to *incline our ears* to listen and receive wisdom, what good is the impartation of wisdom if we're not paying attention, if we're not listening
- Solomon wanted his son and us to do more than simply hear what he was to say, he wants us to see or *understand and retain* what is said in our heart
- We are to keep words of wisdom always in front of us to help direct our path
- We are to store the wisdom of God in our heart
- It's important to store the wisdom of God in our heart because we are prone to forget God's wisdom, let it slip, or get careless
- Though it goes against our inherited sinful nature, we can and must cultivate a heart that loves wisdom and is focused upon it

REFOCUS

Refocus on Godly Wisdom

Proverbs 4:20-27

- We should pray for *and* pursue wisdom in our heart
- Wisdom in our heart brings life and health to our entire body
- Wisdom is a remedy, a healing medicine for poor and foolish decision that often carry physical consequences
- We are to allow wisdom to flow to all parts of our lives and provide *the cure* for our whole person
- Solomon's advice to his son is good advice to us, pay attention and listen closely to receive the wisdom of God and allow God's wisdom to minister every area of our lives

Guard Your Heart

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

- Wisdom must be received and then kept or guarded in our heart
- This passage implies the wisdom of God in our hearts is worth keeping, is worth protecting
- We are to keep the wisdom in our heart with all diligence, because the devil is working all the time to steal the wisdom God has given us
- Out of the heart flows the issues *or actions* of life
- From the heart proceeds all the thoughts, attitudes, behaviors, and actions of life
- So if our heart is full of the Word, prayer, time with God, worship, etc., what flows out of us will be attitudes, actions, behaviors, etc., that honor God and lead to eternal life
- If our heart is full selfishness, greed, lies, bitterness, envy, etc., what flows out of us will be thoughts and conduct that do not honor God, hurts people and will lead to eternal separation from God

Watch What You Say

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

- Our spiritual health, what's in our hearts, is usually reflected by what we say
- Our speech will reveal the condition of our heart
- Nothing reveals what is in a person's heart; their true character, more accurately than their speech ***Matthew 12:34-35***
- We must put away the *froward mouth* and *perverse lips*
- It is speech that has turned aside from what God commands
- The mouth and the lips are *not* synonymous
- The lips of a wise person will keep any corrupt words in one's from *escaping* their mouth
- A righteous heart will control the tongue

Look Straight Ahead

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

- Pure eyes are vitally important, perhaps more important than any other body part
- The eyes are the gate to the heart
- Looking around will distract us from our important goals
- These distractions have the potential:
 1. To keep us *from running* the race God has for us to run

REFOCUS

Refocus on Godly Wisdom

Proverbs 4:20-27

2. To discourage us *from finishing* the race we started
- If we're going to run and finish the Christian race, we must stay focused on the race ahead of us
 - Believers often deviate from the path of righteousness because something or someone has diverted their attention
 - If we are going keep from being distracted in the Christian race, we must put on *spiritual blinders* to keep us focused on the race that is set before us
 - Jesus said if we are to fit for his kingdom, we must stay focused ***Luke 9:62 (NLT) 62 But Jesus told him, "Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God."***
 - Jesus is our supreme example of staying focused ***Luke 9:51 (KJV) 51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,***
 - The wise have learned to view the world through the lens of wisdom and not folly

Straight Paths for Your Feet

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

- It is wise to consider our actions before we do them and see if they agree with the Word of God
- When we consider our actions before we do them, all our ways will be established; they will be *steadfast and sure*
- It is wisdom to plan your journey before you start ***Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV) 1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.***
- The devil will do anything to keep you knowing and running your race
- We must exercise care in the choices we make in life to ensure they are in alignment with the wisdom of God's word ***Daniel 1:8***
- Don't turn to the right or the left, don't get sidetracked the plan God has for your life
- When we get distracted from God's plan for our life, the devil is lurking there to keep us sidetracked and we never finish the race God has for us
- We must stay on the right path, and avoid any "detours and side trips" that are against wisdom of God's word ***Proverbs 4:7 (KJV) 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.***