

Proverbs - Chapter 4

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READ [Proverbs v.1 – v.6](#)

v.1 – v.6 – One of the greatest responsibilities of parents is to train and encourage their children to become wise. In this section, Solomon recounts how his father, David (a man after God's own heart) encouraged him to seek after wisdom.

See [1 Kings 2:1-9](#)

See [1 Chronicles 28 – 29](#)

This encouragement from his father may have been what prompted Solomon to ask God for wisdom above everything else.

“Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad....” ([1 Kings 3:9](#))

Wisdom can be passed on from parents to children, from generation to generation; but ultimately, of course, all wisdom comes from God. As parents, we can only urge them to turn to Him for wisdom.

I was fortunately raised in a Christian home and taught what was right and wrong. I suffered the consequences when I took the wrong road. And now that I am older, I really appreciate what my parents did for me in that regard.

I also realize there are many people that did not have Christian parents to guide them at an early age. We see that today, it seems, more than ever. The good news is that we can use God's Word today to teach us, and we can begin to pass on that legacy of wisdom as we teach our own children and grandchildren.

READ [v.7 – v.13](#)

v.7 – v.13 – Even as a young boy, David instilled in Solomon that seeking God's wisdom was the most important choice he could make. Keep in mind, that although David was a great man, and “a man after God's own heart”, he was human and sinned. Even though God had used him in a mighty way as a young boy to kill Goliath, he was still human and sinned.

However, David never forgot the way home. He realized that having wisdom that only comes from God was so important in living a life that is pleasing to Him. And he instilled this value in his son, whom he loved. We should want the same for our children, and even ourselves.

Just as Solomon chose wisdom, we should all make wisdom our first choice. We don't have to wait for God to appear to us as He did to Solomon. We can boldly ask Him for wisdom today through prayer.

**"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not. And it shall be given him."
([James 1:5](#))**

READ [v.14- v.17](#)

v.14 – v.17 – Even friends can make us fall and draw us away from God. It is really hard for young people to accept the fact that friends and acquaintances may lure them to do wrong. That's why we as parent want to know who their friends are, where they live, who their parents are, where they go to church at, where they work, who they bank with, what they had for dinner last night, etc.

There are campaigns just as "Just Say No" to try and help kids from getting involved with drugs or alcohol. But there is a tremendous amount of peer pressure involved. Young people who want to be accepted find it hard to criticize a friend for things they do that are wrong. Many can't even see how actions by their friends could lead to trouble.

The truth is that we rarely grow out of this. We may get a little wiser with age, but we still have that need to be accepted, and we still find it hard to stand up for what is right, no matter what our age may be. While we should be accepting of others, we need to ensure we are firmly rooted and grounded in Christ, and should never let our friends cause us to fall into sin.

READ [v.18 – v.22](#)

[v.14 – v.22](#) – Once again, Solomon seems to pause to reiterate the importance of what he is saying. This sort of sound like the way we attempt to train our children and grandchildren, doesn't it? In the middle of giving them instruction, we stop to remind them of why we

are doing what we are doing, and how vitally important it is that they listen and obey us.

I can recall not listening to my parents, and while I was being punished, they would ask me, "Didn't you hear what I told you?" The correct answer was yes- that's exactly what I did. I heard them, but I did not listen to them – and so I suffered the consequences of my actions.

Solomon is just reminding us again who important these words should be to us.

READ [v.23 – v.27](#)

[v.23 – v.27](#) – Solomon speaks about our heart. Our heart is where our feelings of love, desire, and affection come from – and this largely dictates how we live. We always seem to find the time to do what we enjoy.

Solomon tells us that we should guard our hearts with diligence. We need to focus on those things that will keep us on the right path.

“Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.” ([Colossians 3:2](#))

We need to make sure our affections move us in the right direction. We need to put some boundaries on our desires. There are many nice things in this world, but if they even threaten to separate us from God, the wise choice is to leave them alone. We need to look straight ahead, and keep our eyes fixed on the end goal (Heaven), not getting sidetracked in areas that could lead to temptation.