

Wisdom reverses the curse of death. Wisdom reverses the course of your life. But these things must be written on your heart.

²³Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Vs.23

Everything you do flows from your heart.

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Matthew 12:34

"It is what comes from inside that defiles you. ²¹For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, ²²adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. ²³All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you." Mark 7:20-23

Once you get truth in the heart, then you can look at what you say.

²⁴Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. Vs.24

Then you notice your eyes, how you view things.

²⁵Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Vs. 25

Then you look at your behavior, your actions.

²⁶Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. ²⁷Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil. Vs. 26,27

Do you see what verse 18 says? The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. Vs. 18

The dawn just gives enough light to see things, that's starting out on the path of wisdom, but the motive to join the journey takes a moment in time. Get the gospel in your heart.

And the path of wisdom which is Christ will shine ever brighter until the full light of day.

Sierra Community Church June Happy Father's Day - Dan Wilvers



The Wisdom Path: Your Choices and a Changed Heart

Proverbs 4:1,2; 11-27

My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment, ²for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my instructions. My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life.

¹¹I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths. ¹²When you walk, you won't be held back; when you run, you won't stumble. ¹³Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life. ¹⁴Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers. ¹⁵Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving.

¹⁶For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble. ¹⁷They eat the food of wickedness and drink the wine of violence! ¹⁸The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day. ¹⁹But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over.

²⁰My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, ²²for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. ²³Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

²⁴Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech. ²⁵Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. ²⁶Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path. ²⁷Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Solomon lays out the doctrine of two paths:

1. The wise and righteous path that leads to life.
2. The foolish and wicked path that leads to death.

Proverbs 4 -Character is a path of daily choices.

Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life.

Verse 13

Wisdom is a path you journey on. It is not something you arrive at.

I. You choose every day which path you'll take.

The righteous path: My children, *listen* when your father corrects you. *Pay attention* and *learn* good judgment, ²for I am *giving you* good guidance. *Don't turn away* from my instructions. Vss. 1,2

My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. Vs. 10

The wicked path:

Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers.¹⁵ Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving. Vss. 14,15

For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble. Vs. 16

Evil behavior is compulsive so stay far away from that path.

But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over. Vs. 19

Daniel and Jonathan Akin Proverbs Commentary write:

"Fools don't see the connection between their foolishness and the consequences. They do not see that their laziness has led to them not having a job. They think their employer mistreated them. The fool doesn't see the connection between his porn problem and the train wreck of his marriage. He thinks his wife wasn't as responsive as she should have been. The fool doesn't see how his actions led him to stumble."

Look at the second half of this passage.

My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, ²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. ²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Vss. 20-23

II. We need a change of heart.

Above all else, guard your heart for it determines the course of your life.. vs.23

Daniel and Jonathan Akin Proverbs Commentary write:

"Many people think of God like they think of Santa Claus. He judges you if you're naughty, and he rewards you if you're nice. Because of this misconception, much of modern Christianity consists of behavior modification. Many people think the main message of Christianity is 'Stop doing bad things so God will like you, bless you and take you to heaven when you die. Heaven is for good people, and hell is for bad people; so be a good person and go to heaven not hell."

There are lots of problems with this understanding of Christianity. Foremost it's not biblical. For another: We cannot stop sinning in this life. We cannot perfectly modify our behavior.

Your heart according to the Bible is the seat of all of you.
Your thoughts, your feelings and ultimately your actions.

My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, vss.20,21

Wisdom is a process of receiving the right words
and listening to the right voice.

Turn your ear to my words. ²¹ Do not let them out of your sight, vss. 20,21

*Why should you take God's words in your heart?
Because they are life.*

²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Vs. 22