

Introduction: What if there were one piece of _____ that protected you from bad decisions? One _____ that kept you from terrible choices? One _____ that would help you make a great choice every time?

The bad news: no piece of _____ and no _____ can do that.

Proverbs 7 gives us a _____: Keep yourself in the _____. (Bookends: 7:1-5 and 7:24-25)

Verses 6-23: God's Word will keep you from yielding to sexual temptation.

I. Keep Yourself in the _____ of God – 7:1-5

A. It is your _____ – 7:1

"My son, keep my words, and treasure my commands within you."

- "Keep my words" – underline those three words! We are talking about _____.
- The best way to make a great choice _____ of the time
- God's commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3)
- Our greatest _____ is God's Word.

B. It is your _____ – 7:2

Keep my commands and live, and my law as the apple of your eye.

- "Don't _____ in the street!" – I was young and needed direction.
- _____ God's commands will help us live.
- The apple of your eye is the _____ – just as we instinctively protect our eyes, we defend God's Word at all costs.
- Is God's Word _____ to you?

C. It is your _____ – 7:3

Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

- "Bread, milk, and eggs…" – we forget what isn't before us.
- Bound on our _____ – our outward life
- My _____ ring – my daily reminder for 47 years
- Written on our _____ – Bible memorization
- We remember 100% of what we memorize.

D. It is your _____ and kin – 7:4

Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call understanding your nearest kin.

- Wisdom: the _____ needed to live everyday life
- Understanding: putting wisdom into _____
- Protect God's Word as you would your own family.

E. It is your _____ – 7:5

That they may keep you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words.

- God's Word can _____ you from sexual immorality.
- Scripture _____ works wonders; Scripture rejected can't do anything for you.
- But only if you keep God's Word front and center in your life.
- "Don't leave _____ without it."

II. Keep Yourself Away from the House of the _____ – 7:6-23

_____ God's Word at the right time will protect you. Knowing her eight characteristics is like knowing the moves of the enemy.

1. She attracts the _____ – 7:6-7

- The naïve, the youths, those devoid of understanding
- Perhaps young men who were never taught the Word of God

2. She looks for people on the _____ path – 7:8-9

- Every major city has its _____ – East Sprague
- 317 calls in five years – nearly half of all such calls citywide
- City signs read "Designated Area of High Prostitution Activity."
- God's _____ put up the warning sign 3,000 years ago (7:25).
- Don't walk down East Sprague!
- Twilight, evening, black and dark night – there are times you should be home.

3. She _____ to get attention – 7:10-11

- She wears the _____ of a harlot.
- She is loud, rebellious, and won't stay home.

4. She knows where to _____ – 7:12

- Outside, in the open square, lurking at every corner

5. She _____ to the flesh – 7:13-15

- With her _____, bold words, vows, and flattery
- She throws in a little religion – peace offerings and vows – to make sin look respectable.

6. She uses the _____, like colors and smells – 7:16-17

- She wants him to _____ the experience.
- She is creating a _____ in his life – certain colors and smells will bring her to mind.

7. She offers a place of _____ and secrecy – 7:18-20

- "The _____ is not at home." That is such a lie!
- She offers a "safe place" – she knows when he'll return.

8. She uses _____ speech and flattering lips – 7:21

- She caused the young man to _____; with flattering lips she seduced him.

The _____ words of 7:22-23:

- An ox to the slaughter; a fool to the stocks
- An arrow through the liver; a bird to the snare
- Ancients saw the liver as the body's most vital organ.

He did not know it would cost his life. **What is the BETTER way?**

III. Keep Yourself _____ to Wisdom – 7:24-27

Now therefore, listen to me, my children; pay attention to the words of my mouth.

- We need to _____ to listen.
- How many bad decisions come from not listening?
- "Shama" – to listen with the intent to _____
- Becoming a better listener will save you a lot of grief.
- The appeal widens to "my _____" – truth every child needs to hear and heed.
- Two "Do _____" (7:25) – steer clear of the _____
- Why? Many wounded, strong men slain, the way to hell (7:26-27)

"The house of the harlot is now likened to a field of battle strewn with the corpses of the many slain." – Albert Barnes

- The _____ to Hell – "Don't go there!"

Conclusion

- No piece of _____ can protect you, but there is a _____: keep yourself in the Word, away from the harlot, and listening to wisdom.
- He fell one _____ at a time; the way back is the same.
- _____ is available (1 John 1:9; John 8:11)
- Carry Proverbs 7:1-2 this week and commit it to _____.