

Proverbs 4-5 – 24 September 2026

“Teach Them To Choose Wisdom”

Introduction

*The Book of Proverbs is broken into 5 sections

*Chap 1-9 (Solomon – the only long form)

*Chap 10-24 (Solomon – short form)

*Chap 25-29 (Solomon – compiled later by Hez)

*Chap 30 (Unknown man Agur)

*Chap 31 (Unknown King Lemuel)

*Chap 1:1-7, 31:10-31 (Unknown book compiler)

*Looking at 1st section (Chap 1-9), we quickly see the entire section is about wisdom

*Chap 1 - how to start down the path to gain wisdom

*Chap 2-3 - the power of wisdom

*Chap 4-5 – teaching them to choose wisdom and to let nothing else into the chamber of their heart

Today, we have 4 lessons in wisdom to teach the next generation to choose

#1 – See the value of being led by wisdom (Chap 4:1-13)

Read 4:1-2

1. Our part: choose to be attentive & hear truth
2. God is giving us good help as from a father, not as from a lawgiver or judge

Read 4:3-5

1. Get wisdom when young & don't let it go
 - a. If only the old had the energy of the young, and the young had the wisdom of the old
 - b. So, yes help the old retain energy, but let us fill the young w/ wisdom early & often
 - c. When we get it...value it, keep it

Read 4:6-9

1. This expresses the high value of what wisdom can do in your life
2. Getting, using & holding wisdom can *only* help
 - a. Wisdom will bring you glory & beauty
 - b. Wisdom will prosper and promote you

Read 4:10-13

1. The primary thing that gives the greatest chance at long life is to walk in wisdom
2. This is a father commissioning his son
 - a. I've given you wisdom, you must receive it
 - b. I've done my job; it's up to you to use it

#2 – Place a guard at your heart so it doesn't lead (Chap 4:14-27)

Read 4:14-15

1. Sin is conceived when opportunity & desire meet – don't let them
 - a. Desire is starved as we stay in the Word
 - b. Opportunity is starved as we avoid the path
2. It's as simple & practical as changing routine

Read 4:16-19

1. Evil will be relentless, it must be avoided
 - a. You cannot reason w/ it, or just do a little

2. Evil is characterized as darkness (no light)
 - a. Men love darkness in order to do evil
 - b. Choose the path of God's light and wisdom

Read 4:20-22

1. In all the getting of wisdom, remember, it doesn't just aid us mentally, but also physically
2. If we're thinking in wisdom, we'll act in wisdom and that keeps us from physical harm also

Read 4:23

1. Guard your heart in the sense of the things that you would become passionate about
 - a. There are things competing to be the master passion of your life
 - b. Only God deserves to be your master passion
 - c. Let's only give our hearts to God
2. New Covenant reveals that our fleshly heart can't be reformed, we must be given a new heart
 - a. Let our new heart be drawn to God

Read 4:24-27

1. These are the ways that we can fulfill vs 23
 - a. Don't speak perverted things
 - b. Don't even look at them
 - c. Don't allow your feet to walk toward them
2. Don't allow these things to stop the waters of life flowing from our heart

#3 – Stay further away from sin than you think (Chap 5:1-14)

Read 5:1-2

1. Receiving wisdom allows us to know discretion
 - a. Word for discretion is *a plan or intention*
 - b. Wisdom allows us to 'stick to God's plan'

Read 5:3-6

1. The strange woman is the one that's not natural for you – not from God
2. Once again, we have the imagery that evil, & this world's passions "look" great but are deadly

3. Last words the mouse at the trap said, “feels so right, can’t be wrong”
 - a. The just shall live by faith not feelings

Read 5:7-8

1. Keep far away from her allure
2. Farther away that you think you can handle
 - a. We often think we can handle nearness to sin more than we actually can
 - b. Bible says, “Flee youthful lusts”

Read 5:9-14

1. Your body, mind and spirit are treasure
 - a. Don’t let evil rob you of their intended purpose
 - b. Devote yourself wholly to God’s purposes
2. Don’t be the miserable one that misuses 20-50 years of life
 - a. There is redemption and eternal life in Jesus
 - b. But you can’t change 20-50 years of pain & waste

#4 – Find contentment with God’s promises (Chap 5:15-23)

Read 5:15-19

1. Be satisfied with what is yours
 - a. Be satisfied with your own spouse
2. Are you more interested in the sex or your spouse?
 - a. A lustful cheater is more interested in the sex than the relationship
 - b. Sex of itself is never satisfied, but a relationship with someone in Christ can be

Read 5:20

1. When you’re content in your marriage, you won’t seek a filthy, sinful alternative
2. Jesus says that some are gifted w/ celibacy (Matt 19)
 - a. But if you’re not, then it is better to marry than to burn with lust (I Cor 7)

Read 5:21-23

1. The Lord is watching every step we take
2. When discipline or correction comes, it's not executed by God but by our own sinful device we were wielding

Conclusion

Are you engaged in passing on God's wisdom to the young ones around you? Let's encourage them to...

- 1. See the value in wisdom & be led by it**
- 2. Place a guard at their heart so it doesn't lead**
- 3. Stay farther away from sin than they think**
- 4. Find contentment with God's provision**