

A Wise Proposition

Proverbs 4:1-27

1. Solomon's **credentials**

1 Hear, ye children, **the instruction of a father**, and attend to know understanding.

2 For **I give you good doctrine**, forsake ye not my law.

3 For **I was my father's son**, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, **Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.**

2. The desired **Goal - Wisdom** Personified

5 **Get wisdom, get understanding**: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake **her** not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

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

8 Exalt her(**wisdom**), and she(**wisdom**) shall promote thee: she(**wisdom**) shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace **her**(**wisdom**).

9 She(**wisdom**) shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she(**wisdom**) deliver to thee.

3. Promise for the **listener** - I have done my part

10 Hear, O my son, and **receive my sayings**; and the **years of thy life shall be many**.

11 I have taught thee in the way of **wisdom**; I have led thee in **right paths**.

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, **thou shalt not stumble**.

13 Take fast hold of **instruction**; let *her* not go: keep her; for she *is* thy life.

a. The **opposite** of Wisdom

14 Enter not into **the path of the wicked**, and go not in the way of **evil men**.

b. **Run Away - Just say No**

15 **Avoid it**, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16 For **they sleep not**, except they have done **mischief**(to **spoil**); and their sleep is taken away, **unless they cause some to fall**.

17 For they eat **the bread of wickedness**, and drink the wine of **violence**.

c. Proper **Objective**

18 But the path of **the just**(**lawful; righteous**) *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the **perfect** day.

19 The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they **stumble**.

d. **LISTEN TO ME**

20 My son, attend(**prick up the ears**) to my words; **incline thine ear**(**bend your ear my direction**) 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.

1) **Advice for the Heart**

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

2) **Advice for the Mouth**

24 Put away from thee a **froward**(**perversity**) **mouth**, and **perverse**(**perverse**) **lips** put far from thee.

3) **Advise for the Eyes**

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

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.