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# Proverbs

Chapter 4 / Lesson 4



## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To give moral skill and mental discernment (1:2)
- § Wisdom (1:2a) = skillful living according to God's moral standards
- § Discipline (Instruction, 1:2a) = training of the moral nature

## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To give moral skill and mental discernment (1:2)
- § Discernment (Understanding, 1:2b) = to distinguish between good and evil
- § Words of Insight (1:2b) = lessons about life

## Purpose of Proverbs

- § To acquire discipline that will produce a wise (circumspect) life demonstrated by doing what is right and just and fair (1:3)
- § To give shrewdness (the ability to see & prepare for evil) to the naïve or inexperienced (1:4)

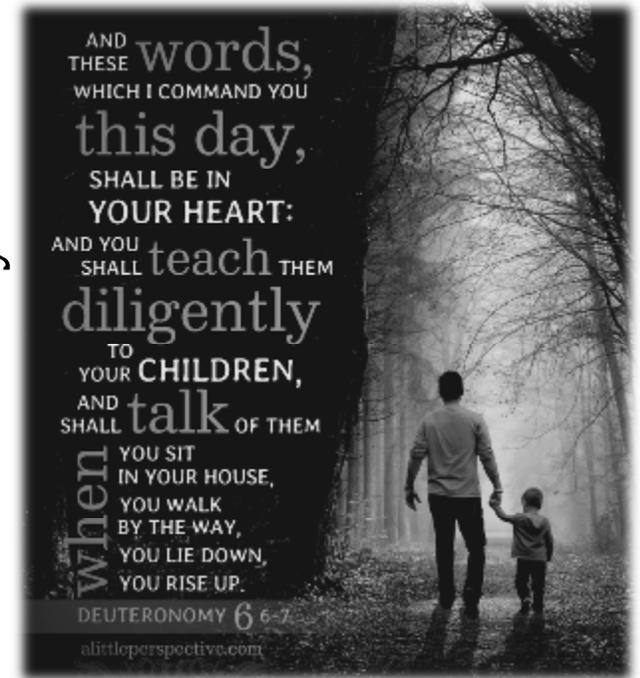
## Purpose of Proverbs

- § The wise /discerning person will listen and increase learning and obtain guidance (1:5). Thus, Proverbs is for everyone (not only the naïve or gullible youth).

## Proverbs 4

- § Traditional teaching from father and grandfather (4:1-4)
- § Same Hebrew words as in Proverbs 1
- § Moral instruction that includes discernment and skills for living

Deuteronomy 6:6-7



## Benefits of Wisdom

- § Life (with all of its blessings, 4b, 10)
- § Security (6)
- § Honor (8-9)

## Garland of Grace / Crown of Beauty





Proverbs are principles that are generally true, but they aren't immutable laws. A wise person knows the right time and the right situation to apply the right proverb.

## Proverbs 26:4-5

- § Don't answer the foolish arguments of fools, or you will become as foolish as they are.
- § Be sure to answer the foolish arguments of fools, or they will become wise in their own estimation.

## The Father Teaches

- § Stay on the path of wisdom (4:10-13).
- § Avoid the path of the wicked (4:14-19).

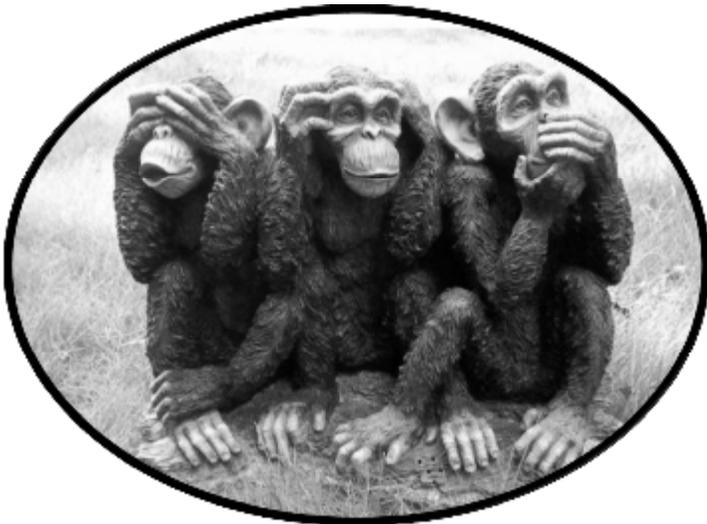
## The Father Teaches

- § Use ears to listen closely (20).
- § Use eyes to watch closely (21).
- § Use heart to treasure wisdom (21).
- § Wisdom gives spiritual, emotional, & physical health (22).

## The Father Teaches

- § Guard your heart (mind), for it is the wellspring of life (23).
- § Wisdom produces truthful speech (24; Matt. 12.34b).
- § Focus your eyes unswervingly on the path of wisdom (25-27).

See no evil; hear no evil; speak no evil.



## Final Thoughts

- § Respect traditional godly wisdom.
- § Pass this wisdom on to your children and grandchildren.
- § Apply Proverbs appropriately.
- § Guard your heart (mind), eyes, ears, mouth, feet, hands, etc.
- § Choose the path of wisdom.