

Keeping the Heart

Proverbs 4 Overview

- The request: Heart hold fast my words (v. 4)
- The words: Acquire wisdom (v. 5-13)
- The warning: Avoid path of wicked (v. 14-17)
- The charge: Pursue the path of righteousness (v. 18-19)
- The challenge: Be watchful (v. 20-27)

The heart

The lips

The eyes

The feet

Keeping the Heart

Flavels letter to congregation

- Three sad states of people
 1. Wicked people
 2. False converts (hypocrites)
 3. True believers who haven't dealt with heart

- Three requests
 1. Study your heart
 2. Carefully watch your actions
 3. Pray for me

Keeping the Heart

Layout of book

- **Chapters 1-3 – Exposition of Proverbs 4:23**
The Matter: “Keep the heart”
The Manner: “with all diligence”
The Motive: “for out of it flow the springs of life”
- **Chapter 4 – Twelve seasons to keep the heart**
- **Chapters 5-7 – Short appendages**
- **Chapter 8 – Final list of motives to keep the heart**

Keeping the Heart

The Matter: “Keep the heart”

- “Keep / watch over”
 - (-) = from danger / sin
 - (+) = in safety / righteousness
- “Your”
- “Heart”

The heart is who you really are (Proverbs 23:6-8)

The heart is the inner man (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Keeping the Heart

The Matter: “Keep the heart”

- Keeping the heart requires regeneration

Our Maker	Unregenerate heart	Regenerate heart
First Cause	Self-dependence	Removed by faith
Chief Good	Self-love	Removed by love of God
Highest Lord	Self-will	Removed by subjection to God
Last End	Self-seeking	Removed by self-denial

- Regeneration reorientates the heart

Ezekiel 36:22-27, Colossians 3:1-11

Keeping the Heart

The Matter: “Keep the heart”

- Six requirements to keep the heart
 1. Requires frequent observations of the heart
 - Psalm 26:2, 77:6, 139:23
 2. Requires humiliation over sin
 3. Requires earnest and instant prayer
 4. Requires a more careful walk with God
 - Job 31:1-8
 5. Requires a constant oversight of the heart
 6. Requires understanding God’s presence with us