

Anatomy of a Wise Life
God's Revolutionary Wisdom (Part 31)
Proverbs 4:20-27

Pastor Dan Phillips

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Copperfield Bible Church

²⁰ My son, to my words pay attention,
To my sayings turn your **ear**.

²¹ Do not allow them to depart from your **eyes**,
Keep them in the midst of your **heart**;

²² Because they are life to those who find them,
And to all the **flesh** of each,¹ healing.

²³ Above all *you* keep *watch of*, guard your **heart**,
For from it *flow* the streams² of life.

²⁴ Remove from yourself a twisted **mouth**,
And devious **lips**,³ put far away from you.

²⁵ Your **eyes**, let them look in front,
And your **eyelids**,⁴ let them aim straight before
you.

²⁶ Examine⁵ the road your **foot** takes,⁶
And let all your ways be established.

²⁷ Do not turn right or left,
Remove your **foot** from evil. [DJP, **bolding**
added]

Introduction: the whole chapter is about the *life* of the God-fearing, wise person

I. Organs of Reception (vv. 20-22)

A. Four Commands (vv. 20-21)

1. ...as to your *attention* (v. 20a – “My son, to my words pay attention”)
 - a. **Object** up front: “to my words”

 - b. **Verb** has a nuance

 - c. What we see and learn:

2. ...as to your *hearing* (v. 20b – “To my sayings turn your ear”)

3. ...as to your *seeing* (v. 21a – “Do not allow them to depart from your eyes”)

4. ...as to your *thinking* (v. 21b – “Keep them in the midst of your heart”)

5. Putting this together right here, right now

¹ Literally “his flesh.”

² Very literally “goings-out.”

³ Literally “twistedness of mouth, And deviousness of lips...”

⁴ Or possibly “pupils,” “eyeballs.”

⁵ Or “level.”

⁶ Literally “of your foot.”

B. One Reason (v. 22)

1. What *reception* means

2. What *rejection* would mean

II. _____ (or _____): The Heart of the Matter (v. 23)**A. Function****B. Message**

1. One *command*, looking back (line A – “Above all *you* keep *watch of*, guard your heart”)
 - a. The image

 - b. The connection

2. One *reason*, looking forward (line B—“For from it *flow* the streams of life”)
 - a. The image

 - b. The connection

C. Implications

1. For parents, as to our children

2. For Christians, as to ourselves

III. Organs of Action: Five Commands (vv. 24-27)**A. How to T_____ (v. 24)****B. How to T_____ (v. 25)****C. How to T_____ (v. 26)****D. How to T_____ (v. 27)**