

Proverb 4

In this Proverb the writer transports his readers into an Israelite home and permits them to hear the earnest and loving advice of a father to his son. This prevailing tone in these discourses is that of _____ rather than positive exhortation. The aspect of wisdom which is most in evidence here is that of self-discipline which leads to _____.

- I. The Father's Exhortation to _____ after Wisdom (4:1-3)
- A. Vs 1-2 the emphasis is for the reader to give their earnest attention to and develop a full _____ of what it about to be shared. This plea is followed by the _____ for such a request; the instruction being given seems to be that which was handed down to the writer, Cf. Vs 3-4a
 - B. Attend to know-Vs 1-give your attention to, don't treat as _____, unnecessary information
 - C. Vs 2
 - 1. Good-well-pleasing, fruitful, morally correct, proper, _____
 - 2. Doctrine-instructions, advice, counsel; (Hebrew) teaching that was given to me
 - 3. Forsake not-don't choose to abandon and _____
 - D. Vs 3-The writer reminds the recipient that he too was a young man himself and was the recipient of similar instruction, thus he is not asking something he himself has not done
- II. The _____ Appeal for Seeking Wisdom (4:4-9)
- A. Vs 4-the writer's father had instructed him:
 - 1. Retain my words in your heart-take the _____ action to keep the instruction received in the heart so that it may your life
 - 2. Keep my commandments and live-following the instruction of the father will result in a productive _____ life.
 - B. Vs 5
 - 1. Get-_____, go after, purchase
 - 2. Wisdom-knowledge, skill, good counsel, proper instruction
 - 3. Understanding-the proper _____ of the wisdom received
 - 4. Forget/decline-don't _____ to abandon, forsake, and not follow the proper counsel received
 - C. Vs 6
 - 1. Forsake-abandon
 - 2. Preserve/keep-guard, _____, and keep from destruction
 - 3. Love-make the _____ to show affection for and attachment to
 - D. Vs 7
 - 1. Principal-the very _____ thing Cf. 8:22
 - 2. Vs 7 reinforces what is stated in Vs 6. When something is repeated in the Hebrew it is done to show the great value of and the emphasis on
 - E. Vs 8
 - 1. Exalt-give great _____ to, build and lift up in your own admiration and in the admiration of others
 - 2. Embrace-to treat with _____ because of the value placed on the object of the affection
 - 3. Promote-the _____ of "bring down or destroy"
 - 4. Bring thee to honor-to guide to a place in life where one is _____ and treated with honor by others

- F. Vs 9 Figurative speech indicating wisdom embraced and promoted results in a life filled with God's undeserved favor and ultimate exaltation in Heaven, with a "taste of Heaven" while on the way there

III. The Father's _____ to the One who Seeks after Wisdom (4:10-13)

- A. Vs 10a Hear/receive-to listen so as to learn and _____
- B. Vs 10b The promise for hearing and receiving is:
1. That their life will have quantity and _____ Vs 10b
 2. That the path of life will not need _____ correction-"Not be straitened" Vs 12a
 3. That the path of life will not cause _____ and pain-"Not stumble" Vs 12b
- C. Vs 11 The Father's testimony and example in _____ of the son
- D. Vs 13 Hold on to wisdom as the source of _____ in this sin cursed world

IV. The Father's Strong _____ to the Son not to reject Wisdom (4:14-15)

- A. He should not _____ that path.
- B. He should not walk in that path.
- C. He should _____ it, i.e., leave it alone.
- D. He should pass not by it, i.e., do not even go _____ those who pursue this course of action.
- E. He should turn _____ it.
- F. He should pass on, i.e., put the greatest possible _____ between you and that evil life.

V. Why does the Father want his son to avoid the path of the wicked? Vs 16-19

- A. They are consumed with a _____ for sin and violence Vs 16
- B. The wicked "eat the bread of wickedness," i.e., the bread which is derived from wickedness. Vs 17a
- C. They "drink the wine of violence," i.e., the wine procured by _____ deeds. The idea is that they derive their livelihood from wickedness and injustice. Vs 17b
- D. Thick darkness i.e., _____, unholiness, misery and gloom, is the lot of those who choose the path of wicked men. Vs 19
- E. The contrast between the wicked and the righteous is so very _____ that one has to be spiritually blind to not see the difference. Vs 18

VI. The Father's Final _____ (4:20-27)

- A. The _____ life (4:23)
1. Guard the heart-the " _____ " for the emotion
 2. Because from that "control center" come the _____ and the behavior patterns of our daily life.
- B. The _____ life (4:24-27)
1. Guard the _____ so that it does not become perverted or deceitful. Vs 24
 2. Guard the _____ so that they do not look to and be drawn away by evil. Vs 25
 3. Guard the _____ so that they do not steer one toward an evil path. Vs 26-27