

More Lessons of Wisdom
Proverbs 4:1-9
August 9, 2015

Introduction

As we go through Proverbs, there is one thing that we need to notice: Solomon repeats himself frequently. There is a reason for Solomon's repetition. We learn best through repetition. That is how we learn as children. That is how we learn words, math, and other things. This is how we learn telephone numbers, our Social Security numbers, etc. Solomon understands that the best way that we learn is through repetition. He says the same things in **chapter 4** as he does in **chapters 1, 2, and 3**. When Solomon repeats it, then it is important for us to learn and important for us to apply his teaching to our daily lives.

Chapter 4 is a very positive chapter. Solomon is encouraging his sons to live life fully by embracing wisdom or God's words. Solomon is telling his sons that life from God is the best life, and it is the only type of life that is worth living because life away from God leads only to death. For us Christians, we know that life is found only in Christ Jesus, Wisdom Incarnate. He is the Source and Giver of life.

***John 11:25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies."*

***John 10:10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

***James 1:17** Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

His gift of life is the maximum kind of life, the fullest that we can experience, and it is given to us perfectly from God! Solomon is telling his sons that the life that is blessed and full is only from God, and that they must actively seek it. Many Christians today believe that they have to sit still and let God, when God has expressly told us to go seek His words.

Solomon's words are urgent, and they are words that his father has taught him. He understands the crossroads of life and death, and he wants his sons to choose life. He loves his sons and wants them to experience blessings from God.

I. Wisdom's Tradition (1-4)

- Tradition
 - Pass down information or practice from one generation to another
 - Tradition is not always bad—in fact, godly traditions are what we seek to preserve
 - There are 3 generations mentioned here: David, Solomon, Solomon's sons
 - Solomon is teaching his sons exactly what David taught Solomon
- Godly parents
 - When Solomon uses the word "instruction", the word in Hebrew = *torah* or law
 - More specifically, God's law, i.e. Solomon is teaching his sons God's law
 - Solomon is saying that his teaching is the same as God's law
 - Solomon tells his sons that he learned this from his father, David
 - What we learn here is that family education is the most important and profound education for children
 - We are teaching them the morals and truth

- We are urging them to know God and His grace and salvation

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. 5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.*

- Tragedy of ignoring godly parents' instructions

1 Kings 12:13-14, 19 *The king answered the people harshly. Rejecting the advice given him by the elders, 14 he followed the advice of the young men and said, "My father made your yoke heavy; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions." 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.*

Proverbs 15:5 *A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.*

Proverbs 12:15 *The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*

Proverbs 10:17 *He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.*

- Success of following godly parents' instructions

2 Timothy 1:5 *I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

2 Timothy 3:14-15 *But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.*

- Godly leaders
 - Pastors, teachers, ministers
 - If they are believers and believe in God, then they will teach us in wisdom God's words

Hebrews 13:7, 17 *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

- The faith delivered to us

Hebrews 11:39-40 *These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. 40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. 12:1* *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of*

witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

II. Wisdom's Urgency (4-9)

- Why?
 - Why is Solomon repeating himself to his sons about wisdom?
 - Love
- Following wisdom will make you alive
 - For Americans we think of being alive as being young, thin, tanned, sexually active and rich
 - Hebrew thought: quality and quantity of life
 - Blessed and long life
 - Concept from Deuteronomy: when you obey God, He will bless you and preserve you

Deuteronomy 30:15-18 *See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. 17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*

- Wisdom will help protect and watch over you
 - Protects you against the snares of the world
 - Wisdom will help you recognize and avoid temptation and sin
- Wisdom will exalt and honor you
 - Wisdom will keep you humble
 - Wisdom will help you have the right relationship with God and with people
 - Wisdom will help you be more beautiful and attractive (inner beauty, which the Lord loves)

Coram Deo

Notice how many times David (and Solomon) says to get wisdom: 3 times—get, get, get wisdom. David is saying that to get wisdom is not something for people who just stand by and do nothing. It is only for those who actively seek it. Obtaining wisdom is hard work—hardest work you can do. In fact, that work will cost you everything: your life, your soul, and your mind. (Now I'm not talking about works-based salvation, but for those who are Christians and wanting to grow in the knowledge of God, it is hard work.) As parents, we have the responsibility to teach our children repeatedly of God's word and wisdom. We are to continually point them to Christ and help them grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ Jesus. The reward of seeking such wisdom is incalculable!