**PROVERBS**

**Ch. 4:1-19**  “The Paths of the Just and of the Wicked”

**I. A father teaches his children**

 A. A plea to listen to a father’s wisdom---**Vs. 1-2**

 1. Previously, Solomon spoke as a father to his son, perhaps with the principal heir in mind.

 2. Now we see the instruction of a father for the benefit of all his children

 B. “Attend to know understanding”---May indicate a resistance by the children

 1. Parents are often discouraged by a child’s resistance to their wisdom and instruction

 2. These still must be spoken, often with heartfelt appeals

 3. **V. 2**---Make sure what you are giving ***IS*** good, not just seems to be good!---“Good doctrine”

 4. Best way to do that is to base your wisdom on the scriptures---“Forsake not my law”

**II. Previous Generations also can teach**----**Vs. 3-5**

 A. Solomon tenderly remembered the lessons his father taught him---teachings that have stood the test of time

 B. **V. 3**---Also his mother----Bathsheba had other sons----**1 Chron. 3:5**---Solomon was a special son

 1. Those taught about God by their parents have good reason to be perpetually thankful.

 C. David cultivated a receptive heart in Solomon---**V. 4**

 1. David didn’t want his words to fall upon deaf ears or a hard heart, so he addressed this first.

 2. If the king of Israel took the time to teach his children in this way, so should every father

 3. **V.5**---the verb “***get***” really has the sense to buy or purchase

 a. The idea here is that wisdom will cost something, but it is always worth it.

 b. There’s a price to pay if you want to know God’s truth and obey it.” ---***Wiersbe***

 c. “Forget it not”---Not enough to get wisdom, we have to keep it--- Later, Solomon forgot his own warning!

**III. The benefits of getting wisdom**----**Vs. 6-9**

 A. Preservation---Wisdom quite often keeps us safe and preserves our lives

 1. It is the most important possession you can have---**V. 7**

 B. Promotion---**V. 8**

 1. **V. 9**---***ILL---What name do you call a studious person after High School? “Boss!”***

**IV. Lessons from wisdom** **Vs. 10-19**

 A. After V. 9, Solomon once again speaks directly to his son, reminding him of the importance of the lessons learned

 1. Long life---**V. 10**---Often the case

 2. Personal satisfaction---**V. 11**—This often comes by passing knowledge onto a new generation

 a. Parents often work hard to prepare their children to succeed in the world

 b. Without also imparting God’s wisdom, our children may run, but also stumble and be hindered---**V. 12**

 B. Keep your heart away from the path of the wicked **Vs. 14-15**

 1. Solomon said stay far from the path of the wicked---If you never begin an evil thing, you don’t have to finish it!

 2. Each and every step on the way of evil makes it more difficult to depart from that path of the wicked

 C. Why the way of the wicked is to be avoided----**Vs. 16-19**

 1. They are committed to sin and will sacrifice sleep, money, dignity and freedom to do their evil---**V. 16**

 a. The Bible does not hide the fact that one can become as zealous for evil as for good

 2. The way of the wicked is as darkness---**V. 19**

 a. Considering where each path leads should help a man or woman make the right choice.

 b. One of Satan’s best strategies is to hide the consequences of our path---“***If it feels good, do it!***”