

The Safety of Wisdom, part 1

"A wise man learns by the experience of others. An ordinary man learns by his own experience. A fool learns by nobody's experience." Anonymous

Proverbs 4:1-9 Christian Standard Bible

A Father's Example

1 Listen, sons, to a father's discipline,
and pay attention so that you may gain
understanding,

2 for I am giving you good instruction.
Don't abandon my teaching.

3 When I was a son with my father,
tender and precious to my mother,

4 he taught me and said,
"Your heart must hold on to my words.
Keep my commands and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding;
don't forget or turn away from the words from my
mouth.

6 Don't abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you;
love her, and she will guard you.

7 Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom.
And whatever else you get, get understanding.

8 Cherish her, and she will exalt you;
if you embrace her, she will honor you.

9 She will place a garland of favor on your head;
she will give you a crown of beauty."

Something to think about...

What are some experiences from your past in which
you ignored wisdom and paid a price?

A CLOSER LOOK: PASSING WISDOM DOWN GENERATIONS

This chapter begins with a father encouraging his son to pay close attention to the instructions he is about to give, providing a clear biblical portrait of a father's heart for his son. The mention of sons in the plural shows that the author, Solomon, intended his teaching for more than just the son who would take his throne even including today's readers to consider his gift of good instruction and teaching.

Solomon paints a picture of the loving atmosphere he experienced as a child, quoting his father, King David, beginning in verse 4. Solomon wishes to pass on wisdom as he himself inherited, an inheritance he was instructed to hold on to and put into practice in life with his aim toward obtaining wisdom and understanding. This pursuit was to be maintained by remembering what he had been taught and committing to the course not swerving off the path.

Personified wisdom appears again to aid the reader in not just looking at wisdom as an object to be found but a relationship to be held, nurtured, and valued, and in return wisdom will protect us. Verse 7 describes this now personal pursuit as ultimate as if saying this is the sole worthy pursuit for our lives, and as we see is worth the effort as wisdom in turn embraces and rewards us for our commitment. This garland and crown described in verse 9 is so much more than a participation trophy, this is blessing from God, honor and favor our prize.

A parent can give no greater gift than to pass on a thirst for wisdom so that their children can stay on the right path in life.

"LET US PRAY..."

Lord, fix our eyes and attention on pursuing Godly wisdom. Give us the daily unction to pursue the protection, honor, favor, and blessing from remembering your teaching and seeking to understand it. In the day to day, and the grind of our labors, help us to rejoice in knowing we can know you and make you known to the generations to come. Amen

NEXT WEEK... *The Safety of Wisdom, part 2— Proverbs 4:10-19*