

Message #5

Proverbs 1:8-9

The introduction to the “my son” section is found in Proverbs 1:8-9. These two verses each contain two clauses, which both use synonymous parallelism to communicate a very profound reality:

ANY YOUNG PERSON WHO WILL HEED THE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION OF HIS PARENTS WILL BECOME VERY WISE, BEAUTIFUL AND POWERFUL BY DECREE OF GOD AND IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.

There will be tremendous rewards for the son or daughter who purposes to hear and obey the teachings of God’s Word handed to them by a father or mother.

OBSERVATION #1 – Young people need disciplined instruction. **1:8**

The Hebrew word “instruction” is a musar which implies discipline.

The point is that a young person needs disciplined instruction in the ways of God if he is to become wise.

Primarily in Proverbs, there are two methods for a parent to give disciplined instruction:

(Method #1) – Through verbal teaching (i.e. Proverbs 1-9).

(Method #2) – Through physical teaching (i.e. through physical spanking a young person is taught—13:24; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15, 17).

It is very important to recognize that young people have a bent toward folly and through verbal and physical instruction, parents actually instruct their children from the way of folly to the way which is wise (22:15).

OBSERVATION #2 – Young people need disciplined instruction from both parents. **1:8**

I do not believe it a coincidence that the more disciplined instruction seems to be connected with the father and the more tender type of teaching seems to be connected to the mother.

This type of training was clearly established for the Jewish homes in Deut. 6:4-7.

OBSERVATION #3 – Young people need to obey Biblical instruction. **1:8**

If one wants to be wise, popular and powerful in God’s sight, one must obey His instruction. Young people need to realize that most of the time God’s instruction will be just the opposite of the views and philosophies that one’s peers are expressing. But always remember this—one who rejects God’s instruction is a fool (**1:7b**)!

The Hebrew word “hear” is more than just note audible sound; it has to do with obeying and heeding the instruction.

The Hebrew word “forsake” is one that means to reject or to cast off. The wise young person **will not** cast off or depart from the teachings of God, which were given by his mother.

OBSERVATION #4 – Young people who obey will be rewarded. **1:9**

(Reward #1) - This person will become a beautiful demonstration of grace. **1:9a**

What Solomon is saying is if a young person will heed the Biblical teachings, God will take that person and begin to make him or her into a beautiful demonstration of His grace. This one will become God’s wise and beautiful ornament for all to see.

(Reward #2) - This person will become a beautiful demonstration of royalty and power. **1:9b**

The phrase “ornaments or chains around your neck” is a phrase used to describe authoritative royalty. Pharaoh gave Joseph a chain for his neck as a mark of position and authority (Gen. 41:42). The same was true for Daniel (Dan. 5:29).

What this means is that it is possible for a young person to become a person of tremendous power with God. If a young person will heed the teachings of the Word of God, he will be entrusted with tremendous responsibility and will become an eye-stopping demonstration of the glory of God.