

Message #14

Proverbs 4:1-9

NO MATTER WHAT THE COST, MAKE YOUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IN YOUR LIFE THE GAINING OF THE WISDOM OF GOD.

Solomon is challenging his children to pursue God's wisdom at all costs.

There seems to be two major personal sections that are given by two different personalities:

1) Solomon (**Prov. 4:1-4a**); 2) David (**Prov. 4:4b-9**).

SECTION #1 – The exhortation of Solomon. 4:1-4a

In **verse 1**, Solomon charges his children to become totally absorbed in the process of getting the wisdom of God.

The word “hear” means to listen to something to the level of understanding it and obeying. The word “give attention” means to perk up your ears. The particular Hebrew form of this verb—Hiphil imperative—means it was a command to cause yourself to become totally attentive to the procedures of gaining understanding of the wisdom of God.

There are two reasons for this exhortation:

Reason #1 - His doctrine is good. 4:2

That word “instruction” or “doctrine” means that apparently there was some type of systematic study that Solomon wanted his children to master.

It is very significant that Solomon, a father, wanted his children pursuing good and sound doctrine for we as parents must always be concerned that our children are learning good doctrine.

Reason #2 - His doctrine is taught. 4:3-4a

What Solomon wanted his children to know is that the wisdom of God, which he was teaching them, he got from David, their grandfather. In other words, he was passing down to them the same information he received from his father when he was growing up.

Verse 3 is very difficult to understand, but most believe that the main point is when Solomon was growing up, his father and mother took a personal interest in him in teaching him the importance of grasping the wisdom of God. The union of David and Bathsheba produced at least four boys: 1) Solomon; 2) Nathan (in the Davidic/Christological line - Zech. 12:12/Luke 3:31); 3) Shobab; 4) Shimea. All four of these boys were born to David and Bathsheba while they lived in Jerusalem (I Chron. 3:5). Solomon never felt as if he had been lost in a shuffle; he always knew he was special to his father and mother.

SECTION #2 – The teachings of David. **4:4b-9**

The key verb of this section is the verb “get” or “acquire”—twice in **verse 5** and three times in **verse 7**. This particular verb actually means to acquire by purchasing.

What David stressed to his son is no matter what the cost, no matter what the sacrifice, give yourself to the objective of acquiring the wisdom of God.

There are eight charges and seven benefits David gives to Solomon:

Charge #1 - Constantly hold fast to my words. **4:4b**

Charge #2 - Constantly keep God’s commandments. **4:4c**

Charge #3 - Become skilled in God’s wisdom. **4:5a**

Charge #4 - Acquire a deep understanding of God’s wisdom. **4:5b**

Charge #5 - Do not wander from the objective of gaining God’s wisdom. **4:5c**

Charge #6 - Do not turn to a wrong direction. **4:5d**

Charge #7 - Pay any price for gaining God’s wisdom. **4:7a**

Charge #8 - Pay any price for gaining God’s understanding. **4:7b**

(Benefit #1) - The person who pursues this will live. **4:4d**

(Benefit #2) - The person who does not forsake wisdom will be protected. **4:6a**

(Benefit #3) - The person who loves wisdom will be preserved. **4:6b**

(Benefit #4) - The person who exalts wisdom will be promoted. **4:8a**

(Benefit #5) - The person who embraces wisdom will be honored. **4:8b**

(Benefit #6) - The person who gains wisdom will beautifully demonstrate God’s grace. **4:9a**

(Benefit #7) - The person who gains God’s wisdom will be eternally glorious. **4:9b**

When one thinks about all of these benefits—life, protection, preservation, promotion, honor, beauty, glory—it is no wonder Solomon made this the main objective of his life. It is no wonder that he heeded David’s advice and wanted his children to heed his.