

Message #15**Proverbs 4:10-19**

In this section, Solomon exhorts his son not only to pursue God's wisdom, but to stay far away from evil.

PURSUE GOD'S WAYS AND STAY FAR AWAY FROM GODLESS WAYS!

Gaining God's wisdom is 50% pursuing righteousness and 50% avoiding evil.

EXHORTATION #1 – The exhortation to pursue God's wisdom ways. **4:10-13**

The introductory exhortation is in **verse 10** where the son is challenged by his father to “hear” and “accept” his sayings, which words mean to hear, understand, obey and personally take to yourself this teaching.

The responsibility for teaching the instruction falls on the parent/teacher and the responsibility for heeding the instruction falls on the child/student.

Four motivations for the child to pursue the wise instruction from God's Word:

Motivation #1 - Pursuing God's ways gives abundance to your life. **4:10**

The Hebrew “years of your life” literally is plural reading “years of your lives.” This plural stresses more than just chronological age; it emphasizes fullness in everything.

Motivation #2 - Pursuing God's ways was communicated by the father. **4:11****(Way #1)** - The father communicated this through instruction. **4:11a**

The word “teach” or “direct” means to cast out instruction.

(Way #2) - The father communicated this through example. **4:11b**

The Hebrew word “led” is very interesting in that it teaches us that Solomon personally blazed a trail for his son to follow.

Many parents miss the importance of this verse—it is **not just verbal instruction that affects children, but personal example**.

Motivation #3 - Pursuing God's ways gives stability to all of life. **4:12****(Situation #1)** - Your walk through life will be open. **4:12a****(Situation #2)** - Your run through life will be stable. **4:12b**

Motivation #4 - Pursuing God's ways gives vitality to life. **4:13**

The word "life" is again plural "lives" and it is a Hebrew word that speaks of vigor, refreshment and happiness.

EXHORTATION #2 – The exhortation to avoid evil ways. **4:14-19**

Notice the six verbs:

- 1) Do not enter the path of the wicked (**4:14a**). "Path" = direction of living
- 2) Do not move in the direction of evil (**4:14b**).
- 3) Completely avoid the direction of evil (**4:15a**). "Avoid" = totally reject something
- 4) Do not travel in the direction of evil (**4:15b**). "Pass not" = do not travel a direction
- 5) Do turn away from evil (**4:15c**). "Turn away" = a complete turning away
- 6) Get far away from evil (**4:15d**). "Pass on" = put greatest possible distance between

Reason #1 - The wicked invest every waking moment in sin. **4:16**

Reason #2 - The wicked stop at nothing to fulfill their evil appetites. **4:17**

Eating bread and drinking wine not only has to do with fulfilling physical appetites, but it also portrays intimate fellowship.

Reason #3 - The path of the righteous continually is shining. **4:18**

One who pursues God's wisdom will have a life that shines brighter and brighter.

Reason #4 - The path of the wicked is darkness. **4:19**

The word "darkness" indicates a deep darkness, an intense blackness. Life for the fool gets darker and darker.

Wisdom pursues godly ways and folly pursues godless ways.