

Proverbs 4

1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;

2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. 3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me: "Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live. 5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you." 10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. 11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life. 14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. 18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. 19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble. 20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. 24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips

far from you. 25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

Comments

Today I want to focus on the importance of passing wisdom down from generation to generation. Solomon said in verse 3 that his father, David, was the one who instructed him in the way of wisdom. When we read the book of Proverbs we are reading wisdom passed from David to Solomon to Rehoboam! We also are blessed to look at their lives and see the results of living according to these wise principles as well as seeing what happened when Solomon and Rehoboam forsook these principles. Let's learn from their successes and failures.

I want to take some time to look at some of the specific instructions David passed down to Solomon. In 1 Kings 2:1-9 we have a record of David passing down his wisdom to Solomon. In 1 Kings 2:2-4 David says to Solomon, "I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; 4 that the Lord may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'" Notice the wealth of information here:

- Be strong
- Prove yourself to be a man.
- Keep the charge of the Lord.
- Walk in the ways of the Lord

Proverbs 4

- Keep His Statues, commandments, judgments and testimonies.
- He tells Solomon he can find God's instructions in the Law of Moses.
- He tells Solomon to take heed how he lives.
- Walk before God in truth with all his heart and soul.

David also lays out the rewards to Solomon. He tells Solomon that if he does these things he will prosper and David would always have a descendent on the throne of Israel.

In the remainder of our text David tells Solomon to take vengeance on the David's enemies, but show compassion on those who helped him in time of troubles.

In 1 Chronicles 28 David assembles all the leaders of Israel. He gives them instructions as he is about to die. In verse 9 he turns to Solomon in the presence of all and says, "As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong, and do it." Later on in the chapter David prays for Solomon in the presence of this great multitude. He says to God, "And give my son Solomon a loyal heart to keep Your commandments and Your testimonies and Your statutes, to do all these things, and to build the temple for which I have made provision."

We know that as long as Solomon followed David's instructions, God fulfilled His part by blessing him. Later in Solomon's life he turned from God, (1 Kings 11:4) and God took 10 of the 12 tribes away from David's family. We also learn that Rehoboam only

followed God for a short time of his reign. 2 Chronicles 12:1 says, "Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel along with him." In the following verses we find out that by year 5 Rehoboam suffered the consequences of turning away from the Lord when the king of Egypt came and carried away all the king's gold including the gold shields Solomon made.

As God's people we need to teach our children the importance of following God. We need to share with them the blessings that come as a result of following God's plans. We also need to teach them there are consequences when we forsake God's ways. I also think we need to impress on our children the importance of endurance. Both Solomon and Rehoboam served God for awhile. Solomon until he was an old man and Rehoboam for less than five years. Let your kids know that the Devil will never give up and they need to remember that even when they are old. Not a bad lesson for us to remember either!

God bless you and your children today!