

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 07 June 2020.....Proverbs 01.....Chartered Waters
- 2) 14 June.....Proverbs 03:1-18.....Direction Offered
- 3) 21 June.....Proverbs 03:19-35.....Compassion Demonstrated
- 4) **28 June.....Proverbs 04.....The Choice**
- 5) 05 July.....Proverbs 05.....Following God's Design
- 6) 12 July.....Proverbs 08-09.....Pursuing Wisdom
- 7) 19 July.....Proverbs 14.....Living Wisely
- 8) 26 July.....Proverbs 15-16.....Pleasing God
- 9) 02 August.....Proverbs 23.....Staying Sober
- 10) 09 August.....Proverbs 29.....Accepting Discipline
- 11) 16 August.....Proverbs 31.....Finding Honor
- 12) 23 August.....Song of Songs 1-5.....Relational Foundations
- 13) 30 August.....Song of Songs 5-8.....Relational Investment

**INTRODUCTION**

- Wisdom is personified as a woman who should be embraced, exalted, chased after, and not forsaken.
- How does God's wisdom come to us?  By Osmosis?  Church attendance?  Watching TV?  Playing Golf (sometimes, Yes)?  Intentional study?  Reading self-help books?  Mom & Dad?

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 4:1-5	<p><b>Sound Wisdom Initially Comes from Mom and Dad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where did Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, &amp; Abednego get their godly wisdom and knowledge?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ When they were carted away to Babylon (early to pre-teens), they were too young to even be in the Temple to learn from the Priests and Scribes.</li> <li>♦ They learned from their Mom's and Dad's at home</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Same with Jesus when He stumped the Temple Priests and Scribes when just 12 years old. For the most part, He learned about God, not from church, but from His earthly Mom and Dad.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Remember, Jesus grew up as a normal kid</li> <li>♦ For Him to acquire the wisdom to astound His teachers meant He took His schooling seriously, and He intently listened and learned ..... <b>Ps 119:99</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Moms and Dads, ESPECIALLY DADS: Take Note!</li> <li>• v5. For those of us short on the wisdom scale, our responsibility is to Acquire, Absorb, Catch, &amp; Learn all the Wisdom and Understanding we can while we can                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This is intentional and often involves a willingness to do 3 things: Sit Down, Shut Up, &amp; Listen..... <b>Ps 46:10</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Simple Definitions**

- **Knowledge:** Situational facts
  - **Understanding:** Ability to figure out the reason why
  - **Prudence:** Ability to restrain oneself from making a mistake
  - **Wisdom:** Skillfully and timely applying one's knowledge and understanding for the good, be it speaking, thinking, or doing.
- Example:** Solomon had wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, but very little prudence. He knew what to do, when to do it, and why do it, but he seldom did it, especially when it came to women.

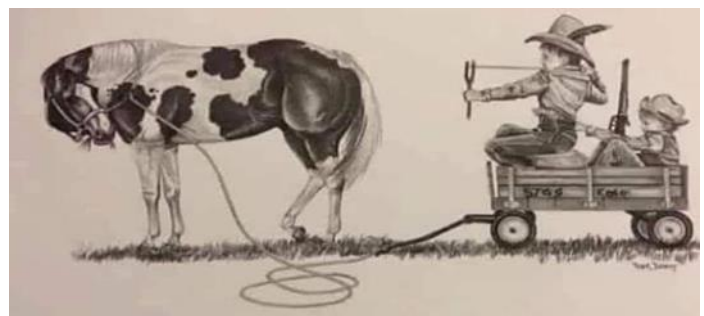
4:6-13	<p><b>Wisdom is Personified as A Woman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She (wisdom) is worth pursuing, holding, and keeping</li> <li>• <b>Results:</b> She (like an "excellent wife", <b>Prov 12:4</b>) will guard you from harm (including, protect you from yourself); will exalt and honor you; and she will make you look good in front of others (she is your crown)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ So, why don't we have more wise people around?</li> <li>♦ Because, like romance, it is hard work and it takes time to pursue, hold, and keep her (i.e., wisdom)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:14-17	<p><b>Avoid Evil Ways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turn off the Sin Switch   Change Channels</li> <li>• Only fools chase after the flesh   So, who will we be?</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
4:18-19	<p><b>The Righteous Grow from Good to Great</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since we have chosen Christ, we are kids of the King.</li> <li>• Therefore, we should not be on a downward spiral but on an upward trajectory (<b>Prov 15:24</b>) getting better &amp; better or "brighter and brighter" (<b>Prov 4:18</b>) as we go from "grace to grace" (<b>John 1:16</b>) and from "faith to faith" (<b>Rom 1:17</b>) and from "glory to glory" (<b>2Cor 3:18</b>)</li> <li>• If we are not getting more Christ-like over time, we need to ask some hard questions, beginning with, "Am I saved?" and, "Who can disciple me?" and, "How much time am I giving to God on a weekly basis?"</li> </ul>
4:20-23	<p><b>God's Wisdom is "Health to our Body"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sin takes a heavy toll on the body, but God wants to extend our days here on earth. Consider the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Prov 3:7-8</b> Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and bones.</li> <li>♦ <b>Prov 14:30</b> A tranquil heart is life to the body, but envy rots the bones.</li> <li>♦ <b>Prov 17:22</b> A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.</li> <li>♦ <b>Ecc 7:7</b> For oppression makes a wise man mad</li> <li>♦ <b>Isaiah 38:16</b> [Only God can] restore me to health</li> <li>♦ <b>James 5:16</b> Pray &amp; confess your sins to be healed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:23-24	<p><b>Our Tongue is the Mirror into Our Soul</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What shows a person's true character the quickest? <input type="checkbox"/> What they eat? <input type="checkbox"/> What they wear? <input type="checkbox"/> What they watch? <input type="checkbox"/> What they do? <input type="checkbox"/> Where they go? <input type="checkbox"/> Who they hang around? or <input type="checkbox"/> What they say?</li> <li>• Jesus says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (<b>Mat 12:34</b>) and, "The mouth spits out what is in the heart, defiling the man" (<b>Mat 15:18</b>).</li> <li>• Hence the warning to guard out tongue ..... <b>Ps 39:1</b></li> </ul>
4:25	<p><b>Now Comes the Hard Part – Look Straight Ahead</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job said it the best, "I have made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a young lady?" ..... <b>Job 31:1</b></li> <li>• In an ever-increasing immoral world, how important is it for men and women to know where their eyes roam?</li> <li>• God knows where we like to gaze, and so does Satan</li> </ul>
4:26-27	<p><b>Stay Focused, Stay True, Stay on the Narrow Road</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sometimes it seems we are walking on a tight rope</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- It sounds like there are a lot of Do's and Don't's in our Christian walk. YEP. So, where is the Holy Spirit who is supposed to make it EASY for us to stay focused, stay true, and to stay on the narrow road?
  - ♦ Easy is not the right word. The Holy Spirit makes it POSSIBLE for us to stay focused, stay true, and to stay on the narrow road.

**NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 5.** Immorality is a sin like no other. All other sins our outside of the body (**1Cor 6:18**).



**IF YOU'RE GONNA BE DUMB, YOU BETTER BE TOUGH**