

Adult Sunday School Lesson
Nassau Bay Baptist Church
June 28, 2020

As you watch and listen to the video, please feel free to pause the video for any reason, including to discuss something with others, to take time to look up a verse or passage, or to take a break. Remember, you also are able to go back and to repeat any part.

Read Proverbs 4:1-27.

Wisdom and Understanding (vv. 1-7)

These verses point out a very close relationship between wisdom and understanding. (4:1, 5, 7)

Get wisdom! Get understanding! (5)

And as you get wisdom, the principal thing, get understanding! (7)

Let's Recall

Wisdom is the application of knowledge and understanding toward holiness and righteousness, toward becoming more like Jesus.

Understanding is the separation of knowledge/information into right categories.

Wisdom and understanding cannot be separated. As we apply what we know toward holiness and righteousness, we must grow in our ability to separate what we know into right categories.

In 2 Timothy 2:15, we read, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." From the perspective of Proverbs, we could say it this way: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly understanding the word of truth.*

But Proverbs, and the Apostle Paul, both would say that understanding is always a part of wisdom. Rightly dividing the word of truth does nothing if we do not apply it toward holiness and righteousness, toward becoming more like Jesus. And both would say that we cannot apply that which we do not rightly divide.

The Circle

Wisdom requires understanding, and understanding must lead to wisdom.

Verse 13 teaches that these things, understanding and wisdom, come through instruction. In verse 13, we see that instruction (*musar*—chastisement, correction) is used as a synonym of wisdom. The son is to take firm hold of *musar* and never to let go, "for she (wisdom) is your life." That instruction comes from a wise earthly teacher and/or through the Holy Spirit.

Two Paths—vv. 11-17

Way of Wisdom—right paths (11)—Walking, Running, Life, Light

Path of the Wicked and Way of Evil (14)—Do Evil, Harm Others, Violence, Darkness, Stumbling

Focus on Four—vv. 20-27

Pay Attention and Bend Your Ear—Dogged Attentiveness—Eyes, Heart, Life, and Health

1. **Heart**—v. 23—Decision-making process
 - a. “for from it the outgoings/the borders life”
 - i. For out of it the outgoings of life
 - ii. For from out of it (flows/springs) the issues of life
 - iii. For from out of (your decision-making process) the outgoings of life
 - b. Out of it spring the issues of life: Related—*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.* (John 7:38)
2. **Mouth**—v. 24—Mouth and Lips; Deceitful and Perverse
3. **Eyes**—v. 25—Eyes and Eyelids; Directly Ahead and Straight in Front
4. **Feet**—vv. 26-27—Ponder the Direction; Do Not Turn; Remove Your Foot
 - a. *And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—* Mark 9:24
 - b. *He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.* Psalm 121:3
 - c. *My foot stands in an even place; In the congregations I will bless the Lord.* Psalm 26:12
 - d. Psalm 1

Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

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Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish.