

Proverbs 4:1-27

- Hear, O sons, a father's instruction,
and be attentive, that you may gain¹ insight,
² for I give you good precepts;
do not forsake my teaching.
- ³ When I was a son with my father,
tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,
⁴ he taught me and said to me,
"Let your heart hold fast my words;
keep my commandments, and live.
- ⁵ Get wisdom; get insight;
do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.
- ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;
love her, and she will guard you.
- ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever you get, get insight.
- ⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honor you if you embrace her.
- ⁹ She will place on your head a graceful garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."
- ¹⁰ Hear, my son, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
- ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of the evil.
- ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.
- ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,

which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
they do not know over what they stumble.

²⁰ My son, be attentive to my words;
incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹ Let them not escape from your sight;
keep them within your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them,
and healing to all their flesh.

²³ Keep your heart with all vigilance,
for from it flow the springs of life.

²⁴ Put away from you crooked speech,
and put devious talk far from you.

²⁵ Let your eyes look directly forward,
and your gaze be straight before you.

²⁶ Ponder the path of your feet;
then all your ways will be sure.

²⁷ Do not swerve to the right or to the left;
turn your foot away from evil.