

PROVERBS 4:1-27

Listen, sons, to a father's discipline,
and pay attention so that you may gain understanding,
² for I am giving you good instruction.

Don't abandon my teaching.

³ When I was a son with my father,
tender and precious to my mother,

⁴ he taught me and said,

"Your heart must hold on to my words.

Keep my commands and live.

⁵ Get wisdom, get understanding;

don't forget or turn away from the words from my mouth.

⁶ Don't abandon wisdom, and she will watch over you;
love her, and she will guard you.

⁷ Wisdom is supreme—so get wisdom.

And whatever else you get, get understanding.

⁸ Cherish her, and she will exalt you;

if you embrace her, she will honor you.

⁹ She will place a garland of favor on your head;
she will give you a crown of beauty."

¹⁰ Listen, my son. Accept my words,
and you will live many years.

¹¹ I am teaching you the way of wisdom;

I am guiding you on straight paths.

¹² When you walk, your steps will not be hindered;
when you run, you will not stumble.

¹³ Hold on to instruction; don't let go.

Guard it, for it is your life.

¹⁴ Keep off the path of the wicked;

don't proceed on the way of evil ones.

¹⁵ Avoid it; don't travel on it.

Turn away from it, and pass it by.

¹⁶ For they can't sleep

unless they have done what is evil;

they are robbed of sleep

unless they make someone stumble.

¹⁷ They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.

¹⁸ The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
shining brighter and brighter until midday.

¹⁹ But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom;
they don't know what makes them stumble.

²⁰ My son, pay attention to my words;
listen closely to my sayings.

²¹ Don't lose sight of them;
keep them within your heart.

²² For they are life to those who find them,
and health to one's whole body.

²³ Guard your heart above all else,
for it is the source of life.

²⁴ Don't let your mouth speak dishonestly,
and don't let your lips talk deviously.

²⁵ Let your eyes look forward;
fix your gaze straight ahead.

²⁶ Carefully consider the path for your feet,
and all your ways will be established.

²⁷ Don't turn to the right or to the left;
keep your feet away from evil.