



Woodland Baptist Church  
November 14, 2013  
Text: Proverbs 4:1-9  
Title: Fatherly Instruction

- I. Read Proverbs 4:1-9
- II. These frequent repetitions are meant to *wake us out of our sleep*. It would have been possible for Solomon to make every sentence different and to give us something new from his mind in every proverb. However, it was more appropriate for our sluggish and forgetful heart to have “rule on rule, rule on rule” (Isaiah 28:13).

A. The giver of instruction (4:1)

- i. This instruction comes from Solomon who was instructed by God, by his father David, and by his mother, Bathsheba, he feels obligated to pass on this instruction to his readers whom he addresses as his “children.”
- ii. Solomon here in Proverbs gives many instructions to his spiritual children, but the instruction referred to here is to know (to become acquainted with) understanding, which is a synonym for wisdom.
- iii. Do you feel an obligation to pass on the great spiritual truths taught to you?
  - d. *2 Tim. 2:2 "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*

B. The value of this instruction (4:2)

- i. “Don’t forsake my law (my instruction) for it is good doctrine (teaching).”
- ii. Some parental instruction is evil, but the instruction to children *to become acquainted with wisdom* (the wisdom embodied in Christ and in the Bible) *is good instruction, the best of instruction.*

iii. *Sound learning*, no matter how unpalatable it seems, alone is good for the soul. *James 1:25 - 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

C. The source of this instruction (4:3–9)

i. Solomon is only passing on the instruction given to him by his father David and his mother Bathsheba (David taught his son Solomon but he seems to have neglected his son Adonijah, 1 Kings. 1:6).

a. *His father had never at any time disciplined him by asking, "Why have you done this and that?"*

b. We see throughout scripture that Adonijah was an arrogant, undisciplined, spoiled brat. (1 Kings. 1:6)

c. Adonijah probably knew that Solomon was David's choice as successor. If this was the case I can see how Adonijah rebelled the way he did. He was use to getting whatever he wanted.

ii. David taught Solomon to get wisdom (4:5, 7)

a. He taught Solomon that wisdom is the principal thing (*the most valuable of the world's treasures*) and that *he should get wisdom at any cost.*

b. We get wisdom by choosing (loving) wisdom (instead of foolishness), by asking for wisdom, 1 Kings. 3:5–13, and by seeking wisdom, Ecclesiastes. 1:13.

c. When we get wisdom, we think as God thinks, we speak as God speaks, and we do as God does.

d. David taught Solomon not to forget wisdom, decline from wisdom, or forsake wisdom (4:5, 6).

e. If we do not constantly pursue wisdom, we will lose wisdom as Solomon did in his old age.

iii. David taught Solomon the value of wisdom (4:6, 8, 9)

a. Wisdom keeps and preserves us (4:6)—*Wisdom protects us from physical and spiritual injury and from destruction.*

b. Wisdom promotes us (4:8)—Wisdom produces conduct which causes us to be promoted by both God and man. Think of Joseph and David.

*1 Samuel 2:30 Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed.*

c. Wisdom glorifies us (4:9)—Wisdom beautifies and glorifies us in the sight of both God and man.

**III. Closing:** Do you plan to teach your children wisdom, as David did to Solomon? If so, now is the time to get wisdom, and begin to teach it to people around us.