

# sermon notes

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Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity  
Dec 3, 2023 | "Wisdom as Lifelong Pilgrimage" | **Proverbs 4:1-27**

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1. The way of wisdom has been generationally \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-9)
2. The way of wisdom requires \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4:10-19)
3. The way of wisdom guards your \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4:20-27)

## Questions for further application of God's Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Proverbs 4:1-9. Why does Solomon tell "sons" to listen to a father's instruction? What does Solomon say about his father (see 4:3-4)? What did the grandfather teach the father (see the quotation marks that detail his words in 4:5-9)? Make a short list of the wise counsel that has been passed down from your grandparents and parents to you. What are some things that you are hoping to pass on to your children and grandchildren?

Read Proverbs 4:10-19. Compare and contrast the "way of wisdom" and the "way of evildoers." Why is Solomon making such a stark contrast between these two?

Read Proverbs 4:20-27. Why, according to Proverbs 4, do you need to guard your heart on the path of wisdom? What can happen if we allow our hearts to deviate or be manipulated off that path? Are you allowing your heart to be swayed or moved by anything that is not God-honoring?

### GET PERSONAL

What sin patterns and bad habits in your life are you trying to break, so that they are not passed down to your children? Have you been open and honest with your children about your mistakes? How are you going to prepare them to fear God and follow him even after they depart your home?

What are some distractions that cause us to veer off the path of wisdom? List some practical ways that you can fend these off. Are you putting evil things in front of your eyes? Are you allowing evil to go in your ears? How do ears, eyes, feet, etc. help guard our hearts?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Solomon uses the word "wisdom" several times in chapter 4 along with other words: "instruction," "insight," "precepts," "teaching," etc. How is Scripture related to these words/concepts? Reread Proverbs 4 and put the word "Scripture" in place of "wisdom," "instruction," "insight," etc. Do you approach Scripture (i.e. wisdom, instruction, etc.) with the passion and conviction that Solomon promotes?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

How does the Hebrew concept of the human "heart" differ from other conceptions? See the following Bible Project video to help you with this question:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/lev-heart/>

Also see the lecture on Proverbs 4 by OT scholar Bruce Waltke:

<https://www.biblicaltraining.org/learn/institute/ot560-proverbs/ot560-10-proverbs-4>