

"A Father's Instruction"
Proverbs 4:1-27

*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline (training/correction) and instruction (attitudes/behaviors) of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). "You shall **teach them** diligently (earnestly, repeatedly) to your children, and shall **talk of them** (seriousness/importance) when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." (Deuteronomy 6:7). "Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD." (Psalm 34:11)*

- The Process:
 - **Discipline:** *"Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol." (Proverbs 23:13-14)*
 - **Obedience:** *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord (it honors the Lord), for this is right (this is God's design)." (Ephesians 6:1)*
 - **Love/Joy for Wisdom:** *"For wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul." (Proverbs 2:10)*
- Proverbs 4:1-27:
 - Passionate Teaching: (Proverbs 4:1-9)
 - *"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight." (4:5)*
 - Authority (Parents/Elders) has been tasked to teach the promises and warnings of God. Both are required to live a holy life (4:4).
 - We are given authority to teach others how to govern themselves and possibly others according to God's Word (4:6).
 - Giving and gaining Biblical wisdom is the highest priority of life (4:8-9).
 - Real Danger: (Proverbs 4:10-19)
 - *"Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on." (4:15)*
 - This is how to fight sin!
 - The Word has been taught and the Word has been exemplified (4:10-11).
 - Wisdom is a life and death issue (4:10,13).
 - Wisdom will guide us through the dangers and hardships of life (4:12-14).
 - People have a high capacity for wickedness and holiness, and our affections push those limits (4:16-18).
 - People sadly seem confused when sin and rebellion lead to destruction in this life and the life to come (4:19).
 - Protect Your Heart: (Proverbs 4:20-27)
 - *"Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Put away from you crooked speech, and put devious talk far from you."*
 - Our hearts must be kept pristine; no filth, no lies, only truth.
 - What comes out of our mouths and our lives shows the **condition** and **cultivation** of our hearts.
 - *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil." (Matthew 12:34b-35)*

Announcements:

★**ANGEL TREE DONATIONS:** As a reminder, THIS Sunday, December 7th, is the LAST day to bring in your gifts for the Angel Tree! If you took Angel Tags off of the tree, please make sure to return your unwrapped gifts by THIS Sunday!

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** Our monthly Church Night of Prayer is THIS Sunday, December 7th, from 5:30-7pm. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body. Please consider joining us for a portion of this time or for the full time of prayer.

★**CHRISTMAS EVE EVE SERVICE:** We will be having a Christmas Eve Eve Service on Tuesday, December 23rd, at 6:30pm — there will be NO Children's Ministry for this service. *We will NOT have a worship service on Thursday, December 25th.*

★*For all other announcements, please see the December Newsletter!*