

The Proverbs: Choosing Wisdom in a Foolish World
The Control Center for Where You're Headed – Your Heart!
Proverbs 4:11-27

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / June 24, 2018

I. Your Choices are What Determine Who You Become

V. 1-18 are about choices that we all have to make for a lifetime about what path to step onto.

Proverbs 4:18 “But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.”

V. 18 contains good news! When you trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding, you find yourself walking with greater light and clarity and have less confusion on your path.

It doesn't say your path will be easy, but it does say you'll experience more and more light and you'll choose to trust God more and more.

II. Your Choices Will Never Change Until You Get a Hold of Your Heart

Proverbs 4:23 “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it springs the issues of life.”

When the Bible talks about your ‘heart’ it's talking about your core beliefs, commitments, or motivations as to why you do what you do.

A. Your Heart is the Control Center for All That's Going On in Your Life

Proverbs 4:23 says to pay attention to what's going on with your heart because it's the very wellspring of life.

Once you get your heart right and have truth in your heart then you can work on what you say (**v. 24**), you can take charge over where you place your eyes and how you view things (**v. 25**), and you can think about your behavior and actions (**v. 26-27**). But it all starts in the heart (**v. 23**).

B. What Your Heart Loves Will Determine How Your Life Goes

The love or worship of your heart shapes the direction of your life, because your heart is the processing and sorting center for everything you do and everything you'll become.

Wanting good things too much will lead you to lose all sense of biblical priority and you'll end up sacrificing biblically important things on the altar of your idolatrous desires.

Our sinful hearts are prone to idolatry. Until we get our glorified bodies, we'll need to do battle with idolatry that is constantly lurking in our hearts trying to take good things and turn them into God things.

Some examples of this include money, marriage, children, work, and achievement.

Often you don't know what you've built your world around or set your heart on until it's taken or shaken. When that happens, you learn a lot about your own heart.

III. Your Heart Won't Be Still Until It Rests in Something Better

“Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” - Augustine

Real change starts in the heart as you begin to sort out and repent of disordered loves.

If you want to see change spend more time loving and learning about Jesus because if you're growing in the knowledge of God, through Jesus, you'll be feeding a new affection that will enable you to change from the inside out as you experience the expulsive power of a new affection that enables you to say 'no' to lesser loves.

The Bible teaches that our hearts are sinful and complex, so we need a willingness to pray **Psalm 139:23**.

Psalm 139:23 “Search Me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

Often the only way that God can answer that prayer and help us see our own hearts is through the furnace of adversity, because most often it's the heat of trials and suffering that exposes the heart.

God loves us enough to blow out some of our flickering lamps (things we idolize) so that we can experience a greater light and a greater love. Paul talks about that greater, more glorious light in **2 Cor. 4:3-7**.

Build your life around the treasure of knowing and loving Jesus. That's when you'll start living wisely, because real wisdom is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

When you know Jesus, learn from Him, and love Him, you'll live wisely. It's not exhausting or burdensome. It's not about working hard to attain wisdom, but resting in your relationship with Jesus and learning to trust Him because He loves, leads, and helps you face all of life's struggles.