

Sunday Morning in the Word



Proverbs chapter 4

August 5, 2018

WISDOM

Studies in the Book of Proverbs

Sunday mornings at Grace
(Through August 19th)

Proverbs 4:20–27

CSB

Reality

Priority

Strategy

A Fundamental Reality

A Fundamental Reality

My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings. Don't lose sight of them; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to one's whole body.

Proverbs 4:20–22

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The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of
Israel:

Proverbs 1:1

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Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, greater than all the wisdom of Egypt.

1 Kings 4:30

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At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask. What should I give you?”

1 Kings 3:5

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So give your servant a receptive heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours?

1 Kings 3:9

CSB

Give your servant therefore **an understanding mind** to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?

1 Kings 3:9

ESV

שְׁמַע

Shema

Hear, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Deuteronomy 6:4

ESV

שְׁמַע

Shema

- shema is often translated with the English word “hear.”

שְׁמַע

Shema

- shema is often translated with the English word “hear.”
- but it also is translated as “listen,” “heed” and “obey.”

When he (the king) is seated on his royal throne, he is to write a copy of this instruction for himself on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It is to remain with him, and he is to read from it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to observe all the words of this instruction, and to do these statutes.

Deuteronomy 17:18–19

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A Fundamental Reality

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Proverbs 4:20–22

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A Fundamental Reality (verses 20-22)

We all have a choice to make to either walk the path of righteousness or to walk the path of wickedness. There is no other option!



The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, shining brighter and brighter until midday. But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom; they don't know what makes them stumble.

Proverbs 4:18–19

CSB

The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, shining brighter and brighter until midday. But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom; they don't know what makes them stumble.

Proverbs 4:18–19

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Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

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Yet to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ is the power of God and the **wisdom** of God.

1 Corinthians 1:24

CSB

A Fundamental Reality (verses 20-22)

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Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross **daily**, and follow me.

Luke 9:23

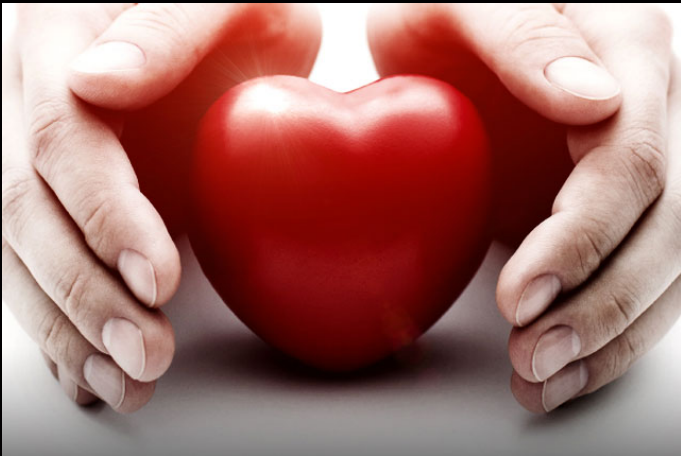
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A Fundamental Reality (verses 20-22)

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A Vital Priority (v. 23)



We must make the health of our heart (spiritually speaking) an utmost priority.

A Vital Priority (v. 23)

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

Proverbs 4:23

CSB



You stop and proceed only after looking in all directions! When the coast is clear, you proceed with caution through the intersection.

A Vital Priority (v. 23)

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

Proverbs 4:23

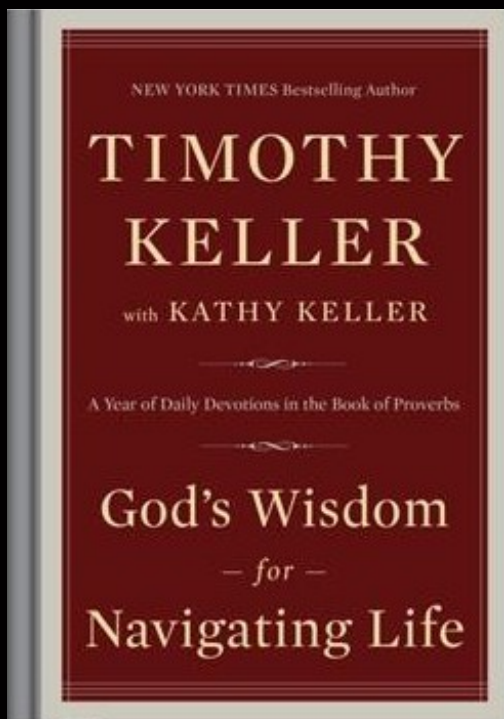
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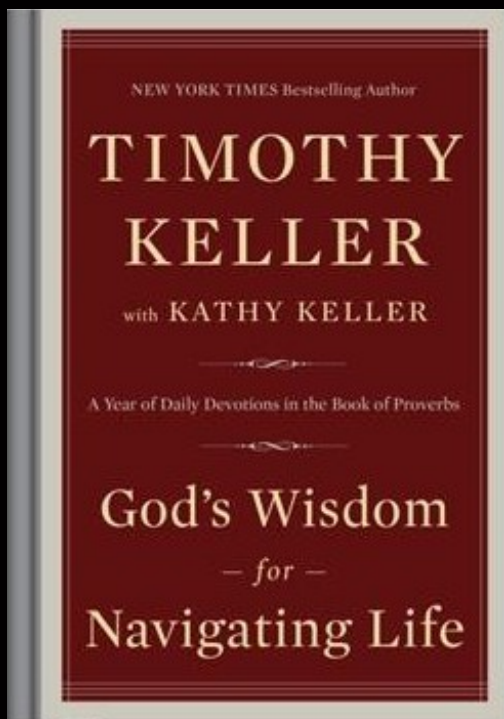
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Proverbs 4:23

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“The heart is the seat of your deepest trusts, commitments, and loves, from which everything flows.”



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What the **heart** most loves and trusts, the **mind** finds reasonable, the **emotions** find desirable, and the **will** finds doable.”

A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

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TO DO LIST

1. Guard my heart
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

Ephesians 6:10–13

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Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Our Enemy is relentless!

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.

1 Peter 5:8

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Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Our Enemy is relentless!

Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Our Enemy is relentless!

Our body is weak!

Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Matthew 26:41

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Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Our Enemy is relentless!

Our body is weak!

Four realities which make the guarding of our hearts such a pressing priority:

The battle is real!

Our Enemy is relentless!

Our body is weak!

Sin is deceitful!

But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

Hebrews 3:13

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A Vital Priority (v. 23)

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

Proverbs 4:23

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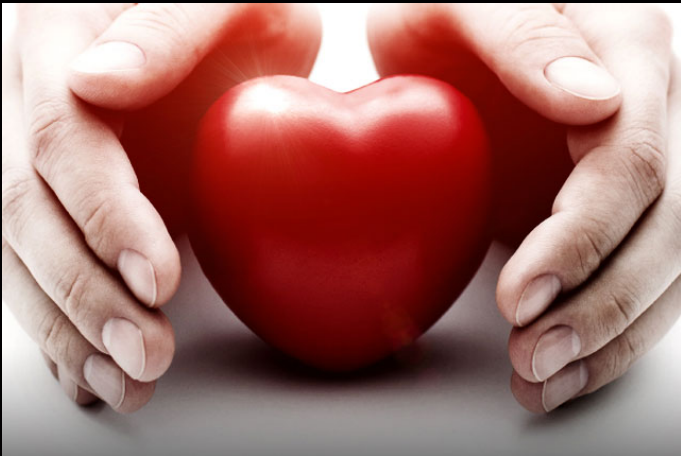
An Essential Strategy (vv. 20-27)

A Fundamental Reality (vv. 20-22)

We all have a choice to make to either walk the path of righteousness or to walk the path of wickedness. There is no other option!



A Vital Priority (v. 23)



We must make the health of our heart (spiritually speaking) an utmost priority.

An Essential Strategy (vv. 20-27)

We must soak our hearts in the
Word of God and the Gospel
of Jesus Christ!



My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings. Don't lose sight of them; **keep them within your heart.** For they are life to those who find them, and health to one's whole body.

Proverbs 4:20–22

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I am teaching you the way of wisdom; I am
guiding you on straight paths.

Proverbs 4:11

CSB

How can a young man keep his way pure? By
keeping your word.

Psalm 119:9

CSB

I have treasured your word in my heart so that I
may not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

CSB



Is your Bible gathering dust?



How often do you open your Bible app compared with the frequency you open your Facebook app?

An Essential Strategy

We must soak our hearts in **the Word of God** and the Gospel of Jesus Christ!





The Bible points us from Genesis to Revelation to **Jesus Christ and the good news (gospel)** of his redemption of not just us rebellious sinners, but of the entire broken, twisted, universe in which we now live.

An Essential Strategy

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A Vital Priority

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

Proverbs 4:23

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On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him.”

John 7:37–38

CSB

Watch what you say!

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

Proverbs 4:24

CSB

Watch what you see!

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

Proverbs 4:25

CSB

Watch what you see!

Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, **keeping our eyes on Jesus**, the source and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1b-2)

CSB

Watch where you go!

Carefully consider the path for your feet, and all your ways will be established. Don't turn to the right or to the left; keep your feet away from evil.

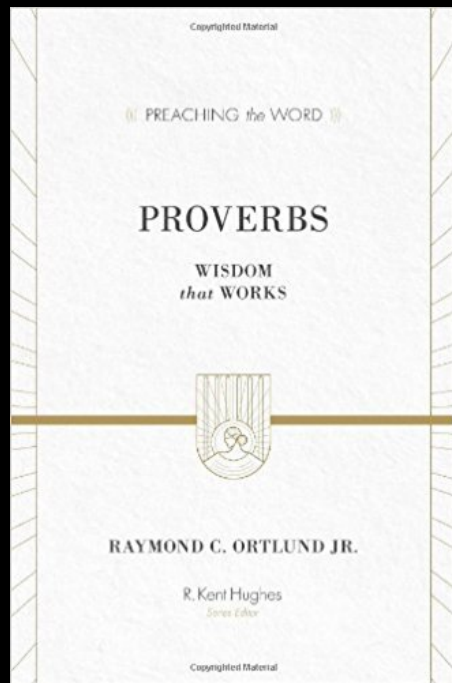
Proverbs 4:26–27

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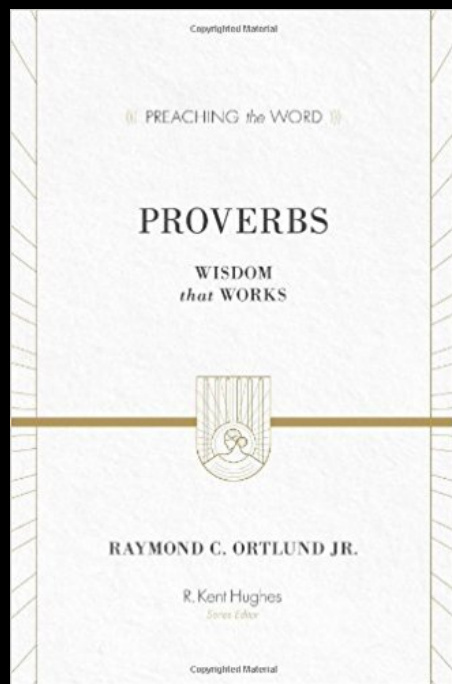
Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to **present your bodies** as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Romans 12:1

CSB



“If we are distracted from real-time connection with the mercies of God, so that our hearts grow cold and our mouths become reckless and our eyes wayward and our feet wandering, we are only one misstep away from life-shattering catastrophe”



“ . . . We do not have to give ourselves to raw evil to end up there; **we only have to un-guard our hearts, we only have to stop being vigilant.** Every one of us is always five minutes away from total disaster. But if we are receiving by faith the outpouring of Christ’s love in constant supply from his Throne of Grace, we cannot lose our way.

(Ray Orlund)

Proverbs 4:20-27

A fundamental REALITY: We all have a choice to make: to walk the path of righteousness or the path of wickedness. There is no in between!

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An essential STRATEGY: We must soak our hearts in the Word of God and the gospel of Christ!