

Lesson 7: Keeping

Proverbs 5:1-23 – Keeping Wisdom

Need to be Intentional - Keeping to Wisdom in the middle of life's challenges
Not losing track of Wisdom is as important (and difficult) as finding it in the first place

Why can it be so difficult?

What things get in the way or distract us?

What does it take to hold on to wisdom amid challenging situations?

Maybe Uncomfortable with the Sexual Focus here, but it is Scriptural

Certainly, we need to apply Biblical Wisdom to this area!

More than Merely Sexual, Lessons apply more Broadly

Test Case – Part of the Whole (especially for young adolescent male)

To All of Sanctification – Sin and Obedience

So again the reminder to “attentiveness” – v1

Taste and Aftertaste – “honey ... wormwood” – 3-6

Wisdom is Not the only Woman – “the strange/forbidden woman” again (also 2:16-19)

Out of Bounds – some things seem desirable but are NOT FOR YOU – forbidden fruit

Ignore Moral Boundaries more easily than Physical ... but both result in pain/death

“In the end, human can no more live outside God's moral order than can the proverbial ‘fish out of water’ live outside God's biotic order” – Van Leeuwen

Serves again as a Metaphor for all Secret Sins – appealing to young male

For instance, laziness as well as lust

Sexual Sins especially prone toward Secretive – affairs, porn, even thought life

Wisdom Shines Light in those Dark Places – see it more clearly

How does the passage describe the *initial taste* of this woman? – “honey, oil”

Sensual, Appealing, Sweet, Smooth ... so appealing and enjoyable

Lips, Mouth – builds anticipation of the kiss in every chick-flick ... what you're longing for

Warned not because you wouldn't be interested, but because she appeals to you

How does the passage describe the *aftertaste* of this same woman? “bitter as wormwood”

Ever tasted anything disgusting? As if the flavor stays with you long afterwards

Learn the Smooth Sweetness is a Lie – Temporary Sweetness followed by Cutting

How is this true of our sinful desires? out of bounds desires?

Interestingly higher porn use leads to lower sex drive and less satisfaction!

Where does “she” lead? follow her to the pit of hell (not the path you're looking for)

NOT the woman you want

How can the paradigm of taste and aftertaste be helpful in keeping wisdom?

Forethought and Afterthought – “lest ... I did not listen” – 7-14

Where should you “keep your way” according to the father (v8)? “far away” “no near”

Why is this not “putting a fence around the law” in a pharisaical manner?

We need a Healthy Appreciation of our Own Weakness in order to “keep to wisdom”

not going in, just taking a closer look ... then trapped/caught

Revisit John Owen’s Entrance Into Sin

How do we “not go near” especially for secret sins? community! – James 5:16

We can look ahead to see where sin leads – “lest ... lest” pictures a future result in order to avoid

Life ruined, wasted, enslaved, used for the benefits of others

A little bit of forethought goes a long way

What happens without forethought? Verses 11-14 REGRET “afterthought”

Groan ... Why didn’t I listen to correction

Prodigal Son – Luke 15:14-18

Why is Forethought better than Afterthought? How can we engage in it better?

Bring Community In, Not Isolation – fathers voice to “sons” plural, Need One Another

Unimpaired Intoxication – “Drink ... be intoxicated always ...” 15-20

Keeping Wisdom isn’t all about avoiding – not all “thou shalt not’s” – “DRINK!”

If you are never drinking what is good, stay thirsty for polluted street puddles

Need to be looking and walking in the right way; Not always looking to avoid wrong way

Driving – stay in your lane by looking at road ahead, not at car lights or at shoulder

Thomas Chalmers – The Expulsive Power of a New Affection”

“The love of the world cannot be expunged by a mere demonstration of the world’s worthlessness. But may it not be supplanted by the love of that which is more worthy than itself?”

Leave Sin only when we Love Christ more – so cultivate enjoyment of him

Proper Emphasis Sexually is not on Abstinence (important) but on Anticipation (proper place)

We may get uncomfortable with overtness of verses 18-19, but very GOOD

“Be Intoxicated always in her love” – not dangerous – Unimpaired Intoxication

Sanctification – we often view God’s commands as overly restrictive

Only called to give up what is unhealthy, dangerous, and destructive

Offered instead to enjoy the fullness of living in all beneficial things

Sanctification is NOT Asceticism – Col 2:23

Law of God as “Fields of Joy for us to Run Rampant In” – Enjoy Obedience

Coram Deo – before the face of God is how all of life is lived – v23

Keep to Wisdom by remembering “vertical dimension” in all of life, even secret sins

Keep to Wisdom by listening/learning otherwise lost and trapped for lack of discipline

Lesson 8: Training

Proverbs 6:1-35 – Training in Wisdom

What's involved in training to play a sport, run a marathon, extensive hiking, etc.?

What does it take to keep up with the training?

What benefit does all the training provide?

Wisdom is not easy, it requires continual training?

We often want the easy route, simple solution, quick fix

Scripture is useful for "training in righteousness" 2 Tim 3:16

Sanctification is a process we are to be diligently, intentionally engaged in – Phil 2:12-13

"Well-worn path of repentance" as the path of life

First Three Sections warn of Consequences of Easy Way instead of the Hard Way

Proverbs 6:23 "the reproofs of discipline are the way of life"

Especially when we don't get it right, continue training in gospel/wisdom

Escape from Easy Promises – 1-5

What trap are we warned about in verse 2? – snared in words of your mouth

Warning is not against helping others, making loans, etc.

Situation where You made a Promise outside of your control in Partnership

Likely a hope or expectation of Easy Money along with it

Likely hasn't gone bad yet (maybe it won't) but Potential (rich or wrecked)

Either Way, Risked Too Much, no matter possible Reward, so "Snared"

What do animals do when trapped? Why do we need that example?

We may Not Realize we need Rescue

We may Not Realize the Urgency

We may Not Want to Lose Face

Tendency not to Escape; Need to be Trained in Repenting (before chance is gone Acts 17:30)

Sons receive Wisdom/Discipline and Learn

Wake from Easy Procrastination – 6-11

No longer addressed to "son" but to "sluggard"

Image of Sluggard/Sloth often repeated in Proverbs, lacks Practical Wisdom

Is it addressed to us? Ouch!

How is the ant wiser than we often are?

Self-motivated, Self-Starter, Self-scheduled, Self-Provision (coordinated)

Never see a Slow Ant, Never see Ants taking a Break, Never Late (sugar ants)

Wisdom Wakes us from Lull of Laziness (doesn't want to think of consequences)

Sweetness of a little more sleep sounds soothing

Surprising Pounce of Poverty (never saw it coming, if not in training)

Hate all Easy Provocation – 12-19

Downward Spiral from “son” to “sluggard” now “wicked”

No Longer Addressed because Doesn't Listen

No Training in Repenting leads away from what is good

What does the wicked person do? What doesn't he expect to happen?

Plotting secretly against Others – “Sowing Discord”

Is this rare or common?

How often do we participate? How often do we passively allow?

Takes active opposition to combat the spread of discord

Never expects it to happen to him – Calamity strikes

Opposite of Wisdom – can't see what's coming (seems so sly, but...)

Pattern of Coming Calamity without quick (continual) Repenting

6 even 7 – how many things are hated here?

One thing: sowing discord ... can multiply examples to 6 ... 7 ... so on

Reminder again that secret plotting is Seen by the LORD

Plotting against Christ that led to Crucifixion (also Psalm 2)

Christ's work builds opposite of discord, Unity (breaks “walls of hostility”)

Resist the Easy Promiscuous Woman – 20-35

Way of Life – Path of Life – being corrected over and over

Lights the path so no always stumbling (better than walking in dark)

Walk/Lie Down/Wake – echoes Deut 6:7

Training in Being Continually Corrected and Repenting – Guards and Protects from Sin Also

Bigger Test comes with this “Other Woman” – Remember Your Training!

Easily caught by “beauty” and “eyelashes”

Prostitute takes your money; Married woman takes your life

Neither is okay; Consider the Consequences

What are the Consequences here?

Consequences of Private Sins?

All Sin as Irrational – “lacks sense” v 32, not ever wise, then why do we do it?

All Sin as Self-Destructive – so turn back to Wisdom!

Reproofs of Discipline are the Way of Life!

The Spirit and the Word are always Training us in this Wisdom!

Don't aim for what's Easy, but Engage in the Hard Training that leads to Life in Christ

Lesson 9: Tempting

Proverbs 7:1-35 – Wisdom for Temptation

What makes some things so tempting?

Why can it seem so difficult to say “no”?

What do you find helpful in resisting temptation?

Is resisting more difficult sometimes than others? Why?

Taken with Wisdom or Taken by Temptation - 1-5

Introduction IS Important

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” – Mt 6:21

Wisdom as “apple of your eye” – where desire is focused

“Fingers ... tablet of your heart” – everything you do and think - Jeremiah 31:33

Intimate with Insight “my sister” – Songs 4:9,10,12, 5:1,2

so enthralled with her as to have no interest in another

“to keep you from ...” – only protection is other greater love

Temptation is not about bad behavior (though it leads there);

Temptation appeals to unmet cravings of our heart

Are we taken with the beauty of Jesus?

Instead of aiming at mere avoidance, better behavior, or external moralism

Proverbs points to the heart! What has your heart? What are you giving your heart to?

The affection of the heart drives actions

Situational Stupidity – 6-9

What is the problem with the “simple” youth’s actions here? “lacking sense”

Is he doing anything wrong? Is he doing anything right?

Twilight – “gray areas” but also “getting darker” – moving in wrong direction

Setting himself up for a Situation he Can’t Handle Well

How can we avoid this situational stupidity?

Awareness of “where” and “what direction” we are going

Acknowledgement of our own Weakness

Avoidance what might be too much

Accountability in Community not Isolation

Active Pursuing Good NOT AIMLESS WANDERING

Away, flee, run, escape from the trap [It is a trap, walked right into it]

Gen 4:7, Mt 26:41, James 1:14, 1 Cor 10:13-14, 2 Tim 2:22

Passively Plummeting

What does the young man do in verses 10-20? NOTHING

Can't you hear his defense/confession? I didn't do anything.

Don't Hear Temptation Out! - Sins of Commission and Sins of Omission

Seduction's Seizing

How is the Forbidden Woman/Adulteress Characterized, in 10-13?

Importance of Discernment – not offering but ambushing

“with speech smoother than butter, but with a heart set on war, with words that were softer than oil, but in fact were drawn swords, the brazen vixen kills the dullard who has been charmed from hearing her true speech because he cannot discern her true character.” S.C. Jones quoted in Waltke's The Book of Proverbs

The Great Prostitute ~ Worldliness, City of Man, Babylon -Rev 14:8, 17:1,5-6,18, 18, 19:2-3

Not the main reference – But shows temptation is all around us [against Christ]

We are easily lured in by all the luxury the world offers [ambush]

Prov 7:12 “at every corner she lies in wait”

Pounces like a Cougar and Propositions Him – grabs, kisses, bold ... leads

Undecided doesn't matter; Neutral means Easy Prey

Lying Offer and Lame Excuses

What appeal does she make in her speech, 14-20?

Everything is Ready for Him, Enjoy All, No Consequences

Lies all lies, Using Him [need wisdom to see the lie in temptation]

Offers Everything, Asks for Nothing; but Takes Everything, Gives Nothing

Who is “the tempter.” “the father of lies”? World:Flesh:Devil::Church:Spirit:Word

What lame excuses (or justifications) are we prone to?

she says – She Started It: Not My Fault; Not My Intention: Not My Idea

sacrifices – Seemed Right/Good at the time; No Other Option

seek you – Destiny, Right together, Right for Each Other, Just what I Needed

spread couch – Irresistible; I was Overwhelmed; Couldn't Say No;

(satisfy) fill of love – I was lonely, unsatisfied, needy

Harry Schaumberg's False Intimacy

(safe) not at home – I didn't think I would get caught

All at Once if not Attentive – 21-27

“never saw it coming” or “could see that from a mile off” :: not looking or careful discernment

Ox to the Slaughter – helpful image ... don't be the dumb ox

Prone to Wonder - “heart” easily “strays” v 25 – “here's my heart Lord ... seal it for your courts”

Highway to Hell – “way to Sheol” “chambers of death” – changes the way you look at it

What do you love of Jesus about Gospel? Why is it so compelling?