

PROVERBS: LESSON 3

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson, we examine two discourses of a father exalting life-giving wisdom (4:1-27) and the sanctity of marriage (5:1-23).

I. LIFE-GIVING WISDOM OFFERS TIMELESS INSTRUCTION AND WARNINGS (4:1-27).

- A. A father exhorts his children to listen to the good teaching that his wise father taught him and live (4:1-4a).
- B. The wise instruction summarized:
 - 1. Keep my commandments and live (4:4b)
 - 2. In all thy getting, buy wisdom - it is the principal possession (4:5-7).
- C. Exalt wisdom and she will bring honor to you (4:8-9).
- D. Wisdom gives life which is characterized by freedom (4:10-13).
- E. Warning: Do not walk with the wicked (4:14-17).
- F. The paths of righteousness and evil are contrasted (4:18-19).
 - 1. The way of righteousness grows increasingly brighter offering stability (v.18).
 - 2. The way of the wicked is darkness offering stumbling (v.19).
- G. Maintaining the right way demands all our being and rewards us with total well-being (4:20-27).

II. WISDOM WARNS AGAINST ADULTERY WITH THE STRANGE WOMAN AND COMMENDS THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP (5:1-23).

- A. The father warns his son of the seductive speech of the strange woman whose ways lead to ruin (5:1-6).
- B. The father's warning: Don't come nigh strange woman's door, otherwise you will lament your latter end (5:7-14).
- C. The father exalts the marriage relationship as the place for satisfying the sexual desires (5:15-19).
- D. The father reminds the son of Divine judgment that comes to the adulterer (5:20-23)

QUESTIONS:

1. Is true wisdom used up in one generation?
2. What should head our priority list of possessions in life? Why?
3. How is it that your steps are not "straightened" (4:12) while walking the "straightened way" (Matt.7:14)?
4. What is the most deplorable character of the wicked that makes it imperative that we avoid their path?
5. Walking the way of righteousness is compared to what characteristic of light?
6. What makes us want to be totally committed to true wisdom?
7. What demands our most diligent attention? Why?
8. Who is the strange woman?
9. What two characteristics describe where the strange woman leads?
10. How can one resist the seduction of the strange woman?
11. What is given up to the adulteress that makes for a mournful latter end?
12. Wise instruction and association with the godly is ineffective if the student does not _____ .
13. What two characteristics of the marriage relationship are exalted in 5:15-19?

14. What characteristics of God serves as a deterrent in committing adultery?