

Above All Else

Proverbs 4

Introduction

Proverbs 4 is a call to walk with God and seek his wisdom in everything we do.

Wisdom

I. Wisdom is like a good mate. Proverbs 4:1-9

God's wisdom is available to all, but there is a responsibility on our part to listen and apply it. No one else can do that for you.

Wisdom is supreme. Verse 7

Wisdom is personified like a woman of great worth.

The language for acquiring wisdom is like a good courtship.

- Love her.
- Esteem her.
- Embrace her.
- Do not forsake her.

There is something of great value here.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

Wisdom

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."
Matthew 13:44-46

Wisdom

If wisdom is like a courtship,
how do I show God that I love him?
Do I value God and his word?
Do I value the time I spend with
him?

© Wisdom is like a good name. Proverbs 4:1-9
II. Wisdom is like a good and safe
path. Proverbs 4:10-19

The way of wisdom is like a straight
path. Verses 10-12 and 18

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and
a light for my path." Psalm 119:105*

The way of the wicked is like deep
darkness. Verses 13-17 and 19

This isn't a matter of preferences
and any path will do. This is a
matter of life and death.
Am I careful where I walk?

© Wisdom is like a good name. Proverbs 4:1-9
III. Wisdom is like a good heart.
Proverbs 4:20-27

*"Pay attention... listen closely to
my words... for they are life and
health."*

"Above all else, guard your heart."

Protect it like a treasure.
Guard what you put into it.

*"For out of the overflow of the heart,
the mouth speaks." Matthew 12:34*

Wisdom

The heart directs our mouth.
What we say. Verse 24
The heart directs our eyes.
What we look at and focus on.
Verse 25
The heart directs our feet.
Where we go and what we do.
Verses 26-27

When we come to know Christ and see how much he loves us, following him is the most rational thing to do.

Wisdom

Conclusion

Wisdom is like a good mate.
They make all of life better.

Wisdom is like a good path. It
gives safety and direction.

Wisdom is like a good heart.
It brings health to the whole body.