

WISDOM'S PROVEN PATH

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"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.. Prov. 4:25-27.

I grew up on a farm among horses and cattle and lots of fields to plow. In my early teens I worked for a neighbor and longed to drive his big tractor. Finally my opportunity came and I was seated and ready, under his supervision, to plow a large field. I adjusted the speed and turned in the seat to be sure of the right depth of the plows. I kept an eye on everything glancing back and forth. When I reached the end and swung around to start back I was shocked to see the crooked furrow I had finished. Mr. Kerns was quick to inform me I had failed in the most important thing. He then taught me on the first cut of a field to pick out an object on the far side and steer straight toward it. Then all the rest of the furrows would be in line. As you chuckle at my distress lets see what all this illustrates to you. Clearly as often taught by the Bible, if we keep our eyes straight ahead on our spiritual path we will be able to plot a straight path for our feet. If you fix your eyes on the One who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, Jesus Christ, you will live in His wisdom. You will also stay on course in the eternal plan of God for you. The whole book of Proverbs is about walking a straight path and avoiding the traps of Satan along the way. **(1). The Sexual Trap:** *"Let thy fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."* Prov. 5:18. Godly sex between a married husband and wife is an important part of God's planning to extend the human race. Now you young people hear me. You boys keep your hands off the girls and reserve your kisses for the lifetime partner God

has planned for you. Remember no sex until marriage. You are surrounded by loose young people who are ripe for disaster and all sorts of kinky sex pursuits. Living together as boy and girl friends is forbidden as is same sex marriage. Divorce is at an all time high, and the murder of abortion is everywhere. Proverbs chapters 5-7 warn about women who sell their bodies for sex and are everywhere trying to trap lust crazed men. Don't follow women who are loose or men who can't keep their hands under control. Millions today are off the path because sex seems to have become the number one attraction of our sinning human race. You cannot stay on the wise path of God while winking at immorality of every form. **(2). The Integrity Trap:** *"The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit. The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. The wicked are overthrown and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand."* Prov. 12:5-8. Truth and honesty are to be clearly evidenced in the lives of all believers. Your reputation is a valuable tool of service toward God, and before men. If you are young, guard your life from evil and ruination. If you are married, you must for a lifetime remain faithful to your spouse. *"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness to his bones."* Prov. 12:4. As you grow older, honesty and truth must be the garb which clothes you with dependability for all to see. Remember also that we will be judged one day by the very words we have uttered. *"The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment. Prov. 12:19 and "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight."* Prov. 12:22. Guard your words and actions and you will be a billboard for all to see, bringing glory to God. **(3). Control Your Tongue:** *"The lip of truth shall be established for ever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment."* Prov. 12:19. It can be

rightly said that the tongue is a little member but carries a big punch. The control of uttered words is something we parents must teach our children as they learn to talk. Today, we are bathed with a torrent of words from every side. Quiet times are very few in our daily lives. We need to think before we talk. Words can be like daggers to the hearer or uplifts to the soul. Try to shut out the incessant rumble of ungodly speech which assaults our ears daily. You must ration that TV with the constant pounding of evil suggestions, and play some good music to bless and quiet your soul. Cultivate a Christian atmosphere by the sounds you allow at your house. Beware spreading rumors and hurtful things about others. You won't have to take back mean words if you never say them. *"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."* Prov. 21:23. Practice mental control and you will do well on tongue control. **(4). Getting Along With Difficult People:** *"Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge"*. Prov. 14:7. It is far better to walk away than to add fuel to the mental flames nurtured. Those that invent lies and those who spread them are equally guilty before God. When I was a young man my mother said. "If you can't say something good about a person, then say nothing." How very wise and scriptural she was to raise her family to be cautious of the problem of hurtful words. Some people use bad words, and curse just to enjoy their effect upon we believers. Learn to steer their words to better use, and let the words of your mouth be acceptable in God's sight. Ask God to help you show kindness to those who have been unkind to you. Someone has said, be careful in asking a musician how they feel for you will get an "organ recital." Ha! I hope you got the joke. Anyway be careful you are not a difficult person to be around, and try to be helpful and loving in all that you say. *"A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."* Prov. 15:1. Pray

about the difficult person, and seek to be somehow friendly without getting trapped in their questionable attitude. Consider the effect of your words and use right ones that will bring joy and not judgment. **(5) Stay Healthy And Live Longer:** *"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."* Prov. 3:7&8. *"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold."* Prov. 3:13&14. I find at least 46 verses in the Bible that teach we may expect, and ask for good health from the Lord. Certainly the wisdom to eat right and humanly care for our body is expected, but bad habits like smoking and drinking are unwise habits of destruction. We must practice the common sense decisions that help the body to live well. However, wisdom will lead us in the path of God's will, who promises good health to those who flee from evil. Invest your life with Spirit filled obedience, pleasing Christ, and long years will be yours. In fact it is the indwelling of Christ within us that really is the key to real lasting wisdom. The most important question is your relationship to Him. Dwelling with you He wants to lead you in great wisdom if you will allow. Rebellion and hesitation to obey will lead to trouble every time. He often uses sickness as a tool to change a hard heart back into willing service. Many believers on their hospital beds make promises that bring them back onto the path of wisdom. We must learn to wait patiently as the Lord works out His will in us. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6. Jesus did not only teach the truth but He is the truth. Clearly the best way to follow a straight path through life is to keep our eyes on Him, our eternal compass. All is not wisdom unless we are following Christ. So be wise and walk in Him.