

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Delight in the
Reception of Wisdom

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 4:1-27

Theme: Delight in the reception of wisdom and honor will follow.

Introduction: When dealing with a gift, there are several aspects to understand. There is the gift itself, the giver, and the manner in which it is given. All 3 help us to appreciate the gift and what it accomplishes. In the context of Proverbs, wisdom is that gift, and by looking at those 3 aspects we can better appreciate and engage with wisdom for what it is.

Here are 3 speeches on receiving the gift of wisdom:

1. The Giver of Wisdom

Gifts that are special to us are usually tied to a special person in our lives. Those gifts have extra value because of who gave them to us.

In ch. 4, the father is giving the gift of wisdom to the son, showing us two things:

a) how the father-son relationship should work; and, b) showing men how to be the protector-providers God created them to be.

We also see a 3rd generation involved (vv. 3-4): the father's father. Wisdom is part of a godly heritage that must be transmitted faithfully.

2. The Giving of Wisdom

When a child is out of line and needs to be corrected, an appropriate spanking calls them back to reality. It captures their attention.

In Prov 4, the father gets our attention, holding out the benefits of wisdom, pleading with us, and exhorting us to respond to his gift.

Wisdom comes as a call to attention. It warns us of the destructive force of folly and sin and offers us to the blessing of fearing and obeying the Lord.

3. The Wisdom Given

The path of wisdom is to get wisdom. We do not grow wise by being foolish, by denying the Lord, or by living for ourselves.

Wisdom is gain through pursuing it, like a young man pursues and gains a wife. He loves her and holds fast to her. So we should do with wisdom.

We must actively engage the pursuit of wisdom, and it is a whole-person endeavor (vv. 20-27). As we do so, we will gain honor (vv. 8-9; 18-19).

Questions:

1. Do you delight in God's word? Is it urgent to you? Are you growing in wisdom?
2. What honor(s) are you pursuing? What would make your life 'successful'?
3. Do you understand and embrace the good gift of masculinity? Or have you adopted the world's perspective on men and boys?