Where Should Wisdom Lead Us?

International Bible Lessons

Proverbs 4:10-15, 20-27

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"I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness" (Proverbs 4:11—NRSV).

"I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness" (Proverbs 4:11—ESV).

"I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths" (Proverbs 4:11—KJV).

Though King Solomon spoke these words to his children, we know that God the Father also teaches His children the way of wisdom and leads them in the paths of uprightness. The whole Bible teaches the way of wisdom and shows by example the excellent results of walking in the way of wisdom and the ruinous results of walking in the way of evil. Jesus Christ declared that He was greater and wiser than King Solomon, who was the wisest man before Jesus was born (see Matthew 12:42). Jesus also declared that He was "the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). In addition to speaking to us in the Bible, our heavenly Father sent His Son to show and tell the way of wisdom for all of His children to follow.

The Hebrew Scriptures teach that God led His people in the paths of uprightness, and many heroes of the faith; such as, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Elijah, and Daniel, found that when they obeyed and trusted the LORD God they saw clearly the way that God wanted them to walk to achieve His purposes for the nation and for themselves. The Bible teaches, "Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith" (Hebrews 13:7). When Jesus called His disciples, He taught them how to follow Him in the paths of uprightness. When we see how Jesus sought to obey our heavenly Father in all things, we learn how to pray and place our trust in the Word of God as the way to live rightly.

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Thinking Further

1. Generally speaking, rather than disregarding the words of the Bible, how can accepting the words of the Bible help a person live longer?

2. How can accepting the words of the Bible help a person find eternal life? Today, how important is the gift of eternal life to most people? Give a reason for your answer.

3. Why do some who claim to be wise, or who seem to be wise, refuse to walk in uprightness?

4. According to what you have learned from the Bible, how would you define evil and wickedness? Why does evil and wickedness appeal strongly to some people?

5. What are some of the benefits of a personal study of the Proverbs? What are some of the benefits of a group study of the Proverbs?

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