

Teaching Outline

Series: Making Wise Choices

Week Six

Prov 4:1-27 (NLT)

¹ My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment,² for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my instructions.³ For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved as my mother's only child.

⁴ My father taught me, "Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live."⁵ Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don't forget my words or turn away from them.

Don't let _____ (sin-nature) take its usual course.

⁶ Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you.⁷ Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment.⁸ If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you.⁹ She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown."¹⁰ My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life.¹¹ I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths.¹² When you walk, you won't be held back; when you run, you won't stumble.¹³ Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go. Guard them, for they are the key to life.

The less we are willing to look _____ at something, the more we need to be concerned.

¹⁴ Don't do as the wicked do, and don't follow the path of evildoers.¹⁵ Don't even think about it; don't go that way. Turn away and keep moving.¹⁶ For evil people can't sleep until they've done their evil deed for the day. They can't rest until they've caused someone to stumble.¹⁷ They eat the food of wickedness

and drink the wine of violence!¹⁸ The way of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, which shines ever brighter until the full light of day.¹⁹ But the way of the wicked is like total darkness. They have no idea what they are stumbling over.

It's our _____ that trip us up.

If you want to be a cool person, go with the flow, take what comes your way, enjoy! If it feels good do it!

²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words.²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.²⁴ Avoid all perverse talk; stay away from corrupt speech.

Guard your heart: protect what's deep inside us, don't let it be _____!

²⁵ Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.²⁶ Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.²⁷ Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

We're never going to be thinking more clearly than the moments that we pick to live godly lives.

Let's keep moving towards our _____!!

For further reflection: How well am I doing at staying laser focused on choosing to please God in my decisions?

Closing Song: Holy and Anointed One