

Proverbs

(Those who choose wisdom and follow God will be blessed in numerous ways.)



Proverbs 4

*The path of the wicked enter not,
walk not on the way of evil men;
Shun it, cross it not, turn aside from it and pass on.*

Proverbs 4:14-15

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Knowledge is an accumulation of raw facts, but wisdom is the ability to see people, events, and situations as God sees them. In the Book of Proverbs, the mind of God is revealed in matters high and lofty and in common, ordinary, everyday situations as well. It appears that no topic escapes attention. Summarizing the Book of Proverbs is difficult for unlike many other books of Scripture, there is no particular plot or storyline found in its pages; nor are there any principal characters found in the book. It is wisdom that takes center stage— a grand, divine wisdom that transcends the whole of history, peoples and cultures. The theme of wisdom and its necessity in our lives finds its fulfillment in Christ. In Proverbs we are exhorted that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Both the Latin and English translation of each line of the verse will be outlined, along with a brief Catholic explanation of that line of the verse.

Proverbs 4

{4:1} Audite filii disciplinam patris, et attendite ut sciatis prudentiam.

{4:1} Listen, sons, to the discipline of a father, and pay attention, so that you may know prudence.

¹ Listen, my children, to a father's instruction; pay attention, and learn what understanding is.

{4:2} Donum bonum tribuam vobis, legem meam ne derelinquatis.

{4:2} I will bestow upon you a good gift. Do not relinquish my law.

² What I am offering you is sound doctrine: do not forsake my teaching.

{4:3} Nam et ego filius fui patris mei, tenellus, et unigenitus coram matre mea:

{4:3} For I, too, was the son of my father, tender and an only son in the sight of my mother.

³ I too was once a child with a father, in my mother's eyes a tender child, unique.

{4:4} et docebat me, atque dicebat: Suscipiat verba mea cor tuum, custodi praecepta mea, et vives.

{4:4} And he taught me, and he also said: "Let your heart accept my words. Keep my precepts, and you shall live.

⁴ This was what he used to teach me, 'Let your heart treasure what I have to say, keep my principles and you will live;

{4:27} Ne declines ad dexteram, neque ad sinistram: averte pedem tuum a malo. Vias enim, quæ a dextris sunt, novit Dominus: perversæ vero sunt quæ a sinistris sunt. Ipse autem rectos faciet cursus tuos, itinera autem tua in pace producet.

{4:27} Turn aside, neither to the right, nor to the left; yet turn your foot away from evil. For the Lord knows the ways that are on the right, and truly, those that are on the left are perverse. But he himself will make your courses straight. Then your journey will advance in peace.

²⁷ Turn neither to right nor to left, keep your foot clear of evil.

End of Proverbs 4

{4:21} Ne recedant ab oculis tuis, custodi ea in medio cordis tui:
{4:21} Let them not recede from your eyes. Keep them in the midst of your heart.

²¹ do not let them out of your sight, keep them deep in your heart.

{4:22} vita enim sunt invenientibus ea, et universæ carni sanitas.
{4:22} For they are life to those who find them and health to all that is flesh.
²² For they are life to those who find them and health to all humanity.

{4:23} Omni custodia serva cor tuum, quia ex ipso vita procedit.
{4:23} Preserve your heart with all watchfulness, for life proceeds from this.
²³ More than all else, keep watch over your heart, since here are the well-springs of life.

{4:24} Remove a te os pravum, et detrahentia labia sint procul a te.
{4:24} Remove from yourself a corrupt mouth, and let detracting lips be far from you.
²⁴ Turn your back on the mouth that misleads, keep your distance from lips that deceive.

{4:25} Oculi tui recta videant, et palpebræ tuæ præcedant gressus tuos.
{4:25} Let your eyes look straight ahead, and let your eyelids precede your steps.
²⁵ Let your eyes be fixed ahead, your gaze be straight before you.

{4:26} Dirige semitam pedibus tuis, et omnes viæ tuæ stabilientur.
{4:26} Direct the path of your feet, and all your ways shall be secure.
²⁶ Let the path you tread be level and all your ways be firm.

{4:5} Posside sapientiam, posside prudentiam: ne obliviscaris, neque declines a verbis oris mei.

{4:5} Obtain wisdom, obtain prudence. May you neither forget, nor turn away from, the words of my mouth.

⁵ acquire wisdom, acquire understanding, never forget her, never deviate from my words.

{4:6} Ne dimittas eam, et custodiet te: dilige eam, et conservabit te.
{4:6} Do not send her away, and she will guard you. Love her, and she will preserve you.

⁶ Do not desert her, she will keep you safe; love her, she will watch over you.

{4:7} Principium sapientiæ, posside sapientiam, et in omni possessione tua acquire prudentiam.

{4:7} The beginning of wisdom is to obtain wisdom, and, with all that you possess, to acquire prudence.

⁷ The first principle of wisdom is: acquire wisdom; at the cost of all you have, acquire understanding!

{4:8} Arripe illam, et exaltabit te: glorificaberis ab ea, cum eam fueris amplexatus.

{4:8} Grasp her, and she will exalt you. You will be glorified by her, when you have embraced her.

⁸ Hold her close, and she will make you great; embrace her, and she will be your pride;

{4:9} Dabit capiti tuo augmenta gratiarum, et corona inclyta proteget te.

{4:9} She will bestow upon your head an increase in graces, and she will protect you with a noble crown.

⁹ she will provide a graceful garland for your head, bestow a crown of honour on you.'

{4:10} Audi fili mi, et suscipe verba mea, ut multiplicentur tibi anni vitæ.

{4:10} Listen, my son, and accept my words, so that years of life may be multiplied for you.

¹⁰ Listen, my child, take my words to heart, and the years of your life will be multiplied.

{4:11} Viam sapientiæ monstrabo tibi, ducam te per semitas æquitatis:

{4:11} I will demonstrate to you the way of wisdom. I will lead you along the paths of equity.

¹¹ I have educated you in the ways of wisdom, I have guided you along the path of honesty.

{4:12} quas cum ingressus fueris, non arctabuntur gressus tui, et currens non habebis offendiculum.

{4:12} When you have entered by these, your steps will not be constrained, and when running, you will have no obstacle.

¹² When you walk, your going will be unhindered, if you run, you will not stumble.

{4:13} Tene disciplinam, ne dimittas eam: custodi illam, quia ipsa est vita tua.

{4:13} Take hold of discipline. Do not dismiss it. Guard it, for it is your life.

¹³ Hold fast to discipline, never let her go, keep your eyes on her, she is your life.

{4:14} Ne delecteris in semitis impiorum, nec tibi placeat malorum via.

{4:14} Do not delight in the paths of the impious, nor permit the way of evil-doers to please you.

¹⁴ Do not follow the path of the wicked, do not walk the way that the evil go.

{4:15} Fuge ab ea, nec transeas per illam: declina, et desere eam.

{4:15} Take flight from it. Do not pass close to it. Turn away and abandon it.

¹⁵ Avoid it, do not take it, turn your back on it, pass it by.

{4:16} Non enim dormiunt nisi malefecerint: et rapitur somnus ab eis nisi

supplantaverint.

{4:16} For they do not sleep, unless they have done evil. And their sleep is quickly taken away from them, unless they have overthrown.

¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have first done wrong, they miss their sleep if they have not made someone stumble

{4:17} Comedunt panem impietatis, et vinum iniquitatis bibunt.

{4:17} They eat the bread of impiety, and they drink the wine of iniquity.

¹⁷ for the bread of wickedness is what they eat, and the wine of violence is what they drink.

{4:18} Iustorum autem semita quasi lux splendens, procedit et crescit usque ad perfectam diem.

{4:18} But the path of the just is like a shining light: it advances and increases, even to the day of completion.

¹⁸ The path of the upright is like the light of dawn, its brightness growing to the fullness of day;

{4:19} Via impiorum tenebrosa: nesciunt ubi corruant.

{4:19} The way of the impious is darkened. They do not know where they may fall.

¹⁹ the way of the wicked is as dark as night, they cannot tell the obstacles they stumble over.

{4:20} Fili mi, ausculta sermones meos, et ad eloquia mea inclina aurem tuam.

{4:20} My son, pay attention to my sermons, and incline your ear to my eloquent words.

²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I am telling you, listen carefully to my words;