

Proverbs Week #46 (4:23)

“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. (NIV)”

Over the last few months I have presented many themes from the Book of Proverbs. Here are a few more of the ideas I offered.

In Proverb 3:3 we learned two things are to be written on our hearts and bound around our necks (kindness and truth). They are to be with us always and to be inside us. Have you ever heard the phrase “take these things to heart?” What does that mean? You might say this when you feel something very deeply -- when you become very stubborn about something and you will not let go of it. In this case the things you are supposed to hold onto very strongly are kindness and truth. How exactly do we do this? How would we practice these things? How do we write them on our hearts and guard them?

Proverbs 3:5,6 teaches us to “trust in the Lord with all our hearts...in all your ways acknowledge Him” If walking with God were to be compared with running a race would you think the race would be a sprint or a marathon? The long run we have ahead of us (if the Lord is willing) needs to be run with full awareness that God’s love will last to the very end. It is this truth that we must cling to and not allow anything to cause us to doubt. The scriptures teach us, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.” (Isa 40:8) Most lawns now are very green. But, as the summer heat will turn many lawns brown, we should be reminded that even though the things of this world wither and fade, God’s truth will always endure. We as a family at Beit Hallel must be reminded that God has a purpose for each and every one of us. He desires for us to be like His Son and to hold on to what is true. Whether times appear to be good or bad God will remain faithful to His words. We can trust in Him-- He will be faithful.

Children if you will receive the wisdom from the Bible and put your trust in God, He will guide and direct you as a loving father. The character qualities and virtues, which you will need in order to walk in righteousness before Him, He will provide. This is the context of Biblical wisdom and a central part of the teaching and learning relationships that will build strong families. It is in this context that Paul taught Timothy that “All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Tim 3:16,17) He had just reminded Timothy “that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in the Messiah Yeshua.” (2 Tim 3:15)

Proverbs 3:19-26 taught us “The Lord by wisdom founded the earth” and in learning His wisdom we are told that we will walk in our ways securely. Part of learning to be wise is keeping God’s commands. In the Psalms we find imperatives (commands) that remind us to sing for joy the Lord, to give thanks to Him, and to tell of all His wonderful deeds. Are you remembering to do this on a regular basis? Are you remembering to thank God and sing praises to Him? Remember also that if you don’t know how (or don’t feel like you have that skill) you can ask God for wisdom in order to fulfill His commands.

Our verse today tells us to guard our hearts above all else! Some translations read “for out of it flows the issues of life.” The Hebrew phrase can be understood idiomatically to mean “everything you do flows from it.” We are instructed to make it a priority to guard our hearts. How do we do this? Parents help your children to remember this proverb and these lessons we are learning together.