

Sermon Text Discussion 3/5/2017

Proverbs 4: "Sin as addiction, Christ as the cure" by Drew Hunter

Overview

Each of us is on a journey; on a particular path in life. While each journey is unique and personal, Proverbs 4 teaches that all of us are really on one of two paths.

- Path of Wisdom: this path gets brighter and brighter and leads to life and peace
- Path of Foolishness: this path is one of deep darkness and leads to confusion and death

Christ taught of a narrow gate that leads to life and of a wide gate that leads to destruction. Proverbs 4 tells us how to find this path of life, what to expect while on the path, and how to stay on the path.

Quotations

In his book, *Addictions: A Banquet to the Grave*, Ed Welch outlines five steps through which sin in our life progresses.

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| 1. Experimentation | 4. Love and betrayal |
| 2. Friendship | 5. Worship and slavery |
| 3. Infatuation | |

"Sin aims always at the utmost. Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could. It is modest, as it were, in its first motions and proposals, but having once gotten footing in the heart, it constantly makes good its ground, and presses on to some farther degrees in the same kind." – John Owen

Understanding & Application

- 1) Reflect on wisdom you have attained in your life. From what source or sources was it attained? Share a personal example of someone sharing his/her wisdom and how is affected you.
- 2) Drew mentions three sources of wisdom – the Bible, wise individuals in your life, and wise books. Which sources do you regularly tap? What steps could you take to leverage other sources of wisdom?
- 3) Our decisions and choices are directional; they shape the course of our lives. How does making a wise choice help you make the next right choice? What godly habits do you currently enjoy that are a result of a pattern of wise choices and decisions? What counsel would you give a new Christian to help establish good spiritual disciplines?
- 4) Review the five steps of sin's progression (listed above) outlined in Ed Welch's book, *Addictions: A Banquet to the Grave*. Have you experienced sin in your own life or seen sin in the life of a loved one progress through these five steps? At which step is it easiest to address the sin?
- 5) What sins in your life are sitting in the step of experimentation? What do you need to do to stop the progression?
- 6) What does verse 23 mean to you? To what do you think the writer is referring by the term 'heart'? What practical ways can you take to 'keep your heart'?