

June 11, 2023  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
L.G. Redekopp  
Text: Selected Scriptures

## **“Listen, My Son”**

Exhortation #1: build a “fear of God” consciousness  
Prov. 1:7; 2:1-6; 9:10; 14:26-27; Ps. 25:12-15

Exhortation #2: establish a guardianship of your heart  
Prov. 4:23 (4:20-27)

Exhortation #3: cultivate generosity and contentment  
Prov. 3:9 (3:1-10, 13-18); I Tim. 6:6-10

Illustration:

## Points for Self-Study and Group Discussion

1. The term “fear of the LORD” receives repeated accent in the book of Proverbs (my count: 16 times).
  - Using a Bible with side-column references or a concordance, trace usage of this term in the first nine chapters of Proverbs, observing particularly the application context in which each statement of this virtue is noted (Prov. 1:7, 29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13, 9:10).
2. The Scriptures command both “fear the LORD” and “love the LORD”.
  - Should these commands be reckoned as distinct or as more nearly synonymous terms?
  - Considering the prayer of David expressed in Ps. 86:11, “Unite my heart to fear Your name”, would not a uniting of ‘heart fear of Yahweh’ and ‘heart love for Yahweh’ involve a quite common sense?
  - In regard to these twin commands, consider and discuss the following couplets.
    - To love the LORD our God is to sustain an exclusive and supreme devotion to Him.
    - To fear the LORD is to sustain a supreme respect for His holiness and His authority.
  
    - Love disposes one to delight in the personal excellence and goodness of God.
    - Fear disposes one to have reverential respect and trust in God.
  
    - Love disposes one to render all proper respect to God, esteeming His worthiness as Holy Father.
    - Fear disposes one to render all proper respect to God, revering His worthiness as Holy Sovereign.
3. Compare Prov. 1:7 & 9:10 with Job 28:28 (actually, with Job 28:12-13, 23-24 and 28).
  - Identify any differences in wording, and discuss therewith any differences or parallels you might perceive in the accented emphases noted in these texts.
4. Suggest ways that a developed “fear of the LORD” might contribute to a guardianship so integral to obeying the exhortation “watch over your heart with all diligence” (Prov. 4:23), observing that the noted urgency for “watchfulness” is present because the very ‘source-spring’ of one’s inclinations and life choices resides in “the heart”.
  - Considering the extended paragraph (Prov. 4:20-27), discuss the pivotal role a developed consciousness of “fear of the LORD” might exert (will exert!) in one’s life.
  - Might you recall the protection of such a ‘heart guardianship’ in your personal experience?
5. Suggest ways that a developed “fear of the LORD” might assist in fulfillment of one’s “honoring the LORD from your wealth” (Prov. 3:9).
  - Consider (discuss) the guardianship role of a developed “fear of the LORD” in connection with the serious warnings pertaining to covetousness and greed noted in I Tim. 6:9-10.
  - Might you recall instances from your personal faith pilgrimage when your “fear of God” inclined you to initiate positive steps toward honoring to the LORD from your income (wealth)?
6. Discuss the contrasting ‘life-trusts’ and ‘life-outcomes’ set forth in Jer. 17:5-8, noting in particular:
  - the essential impact afforded through attention to a development of this vital life-principle of “fearing the LORD” joined with a whole-soul trust in the LORD (Prov. 3:5-6)
  - the value of engaging a regular “life check-up” available through a reading of Prov. 1–9, and giving focused attention to “listen my son” (alt., “hear my son”) instructions in these chapters.