

Eternal
PERSPECTIVE
Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 4:1-9

1 Hear, O sons, a father's instruction and be 'attentive, that you may gain insight,

2 for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

3 When I was a son with my father tender, the only one in the sight of my mother,

4 he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words, keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom; get insight, do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth.

6 Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you.

7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom and whatever you get, get insight.

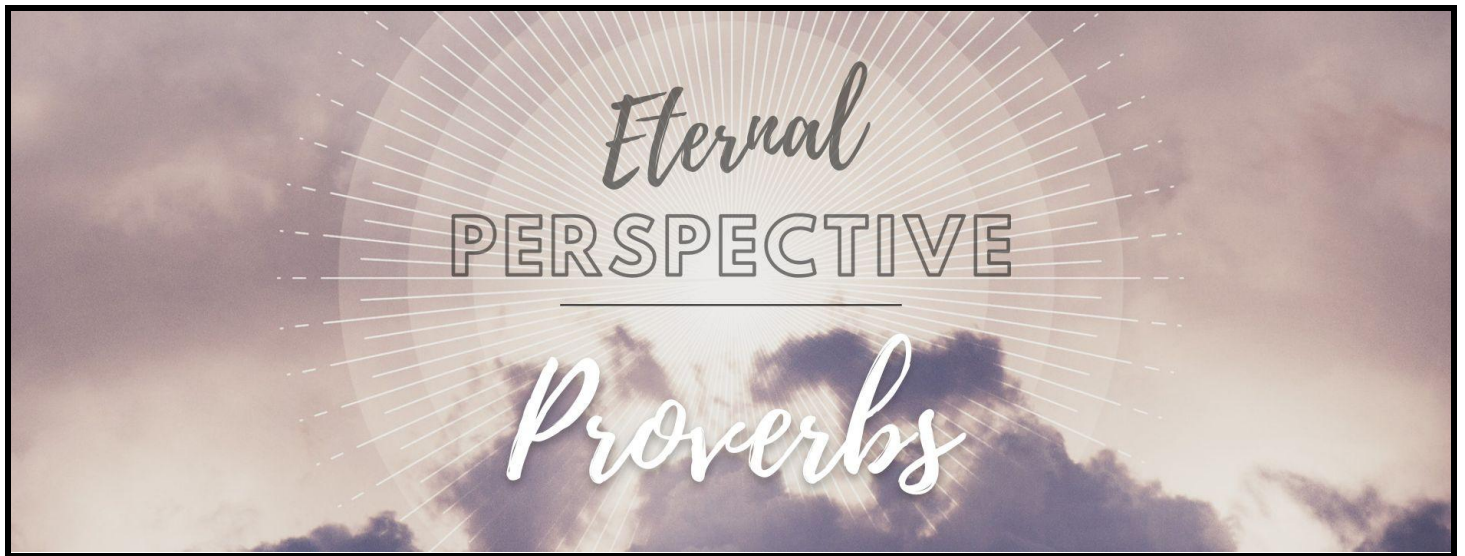
8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

9 She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown."

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 4:1-9

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As a child I can remember following my dad around everywhere that I could. That time spent with him made impressions on me that are still present today. To me he was everything and most of what I learned during those first fifteen years was from him (both good and bad things). Then came the next fifteen years, when everything changed in my mind. In my thinking he became inconsequential and had nothing to offer that I needed. My pride and self-centeredness had taken hold in those years. Suddenly, I was complete and did not need him.



In today's Scripture from Proverbs, Solomon stresses to the children (sons and daughters) to pay close attention to their earthly father. The teachings and wisdom gained from his father were the most valuable.

During those fifteen or so years of dysfunction from my dad, I also started on a path of disobedience and alienation from God. My life experiences during those years were hard lessons. Pride was the main reason that I continued to endure them and not ask for help. Then behold, sometime around age thirty, a light went off and I remembered the wisdom that my dad had shared with me in the past. I was able to tap into that resource once again. Unfortunately, I stayed prodigal toward God and alienated for another twenty-five years. Around the age of fifty-five, I decided I no longer liked "feeding with the pigs" (Luke 15:16) or "returning to my vomit" (2 Peter 2:22). I have been reconciled to God, through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-18) since 2014.

It was brought to my attention several years ago while having a conversation with our middle child, Carl, that my experience and attitude towards my dad may not have been that unusual. Our conversation centered around a problem he was having with his house and as I explained the proper way to solve his problem, he acknowledged that I in fact was useful to him again; meaning that he too spent several years dismissing the worth of what I told him. My earthly father passed away a couple of years ago, although due to dementia and Alzheimer's for the last ten years of his life, I was not able to glean from him. But because of the relationship that I started with Christ in 2014 I have a resource that is far better. I can get all that I need daily through my Scripture reading.

Questions:

1. Do you need to make amends and be reconciled to a family member?
2. Do you have time with God daily? If not, why?
3. Who do you trust for important decisions?