

PROVERBS

Two Paths Two Ways

4:1 Hear ...



4:10 HEAR ...

4:20 Really HEAR!

4:1-2 Listen Children! The **instruction** (*musar*) of a father
Pay attention! and you will **know** (*da'at*) understanding.
Learning is Good! Give yourselves to my **teaching** (*torah*).
Do not leave it (*forsake, abandon, "apostasy"*)

Prov. 1:7 The fear of the LORD

(found in **torah**)

is the beginning of

knowledge (**da'at**)

wisdom (**hokmah**) and

instruction (**musar**).

(*Fools despise it ALL!*)

4:3-4 When I was a son to my father, a tender only child before my mother, he taught me, and he said to me:

“Let your heart lay hold of my words;
Keep my commands so that you will live.

4:5-7 **Acquire** wisdom, **acquire** understanding;
Do not forget and **do not turn** aside from the words I speak.
Do not forsake Wisdom, and she will protect you;
Love Wisdom, and she will **guard** you.
Wisdom is supreme—so **acquire** wisdom,
and whatever you **acquire**, **acquire** understanding!”

4:8-9 Prize Wisdom and she will exalt you;
She will honor you when you embrace her.
4:9 She will place a **garland of grace** on your head;
she will **cover you** with a beautiful crown.”

4:10-13 **Listen** my son! Accept my words,
So that the years of your life will be many.
I will guide you in the **way** of wisdom
And I will lead you in upright **paths**.
When you walk, your steps will not be hampered,
And when you run, you will not stumble.
Hold on to instruction, do not let go;
Protect it (*her*), because *she (wisdom)* is your life.

4:14-17 Do not enter **the path** of the wicked
Or walk in **the way** of those who are evil.
Avoid it, do not go on it;
Turn away from it, and move on.
They cannot sleep unless they cause harm;
They are robbed of sleep until they make someone stumble.
They eat bread gained from wickedness
They drink wine obtained from violence.

4:18-19 But **the path** of the righteous is like the **bright morning light**,
Growing brighter and brighter into the full day
The way of the wicked is like **gloomy darkness**
They do not know what causes them to stumble.

4:20-23 My child, **pay attention!** Hear my words;
Turn your ear to my words.
Do not let my words depart from **your sight**,
Guard my words within your heart;
They are life to those who find them
They are healing to your entire body.
Guard your heart with all vigilance,
Life itself flows from your heart.

4:24-25 Remove **perverse speech** from your mouth;
Keep **devious talk** far from your lips.
Let your **eyes** look directly in front of you
Let your **gaze** look straight before you.

“Proverbs provides both a goal and route.

The goal is successful living

The route is the way of wisdom ...”

w.w.wiersbe

4:26-27 Make **the path** for your feet level,
So that all **your ways** may be established.
Do not turn to the right or to the left;
Turn yourself away from evil.

The Anatomy of Discipleship

The “ear” receives and retains the words of the wise parent. The “eyes” must be riveted to the words and to the path, looking for any deviation, for any obstacle.

The “heart” is a vault for the treasures of wisdom. It is guarded carefully; wisdom is drawn-out and skillfully employed. The “heart” is a well or a spring. Its “waters” refresh the wise and all those around them. No treasure was more coveted than fresh spring water in this desert land. To keep it from turning brackish was a noble goal.

The “mouth” and “lips” are the conduit for this well-spring, from which the water of the heart flows in either a fresh or a fetid form.

David A. Hubbard

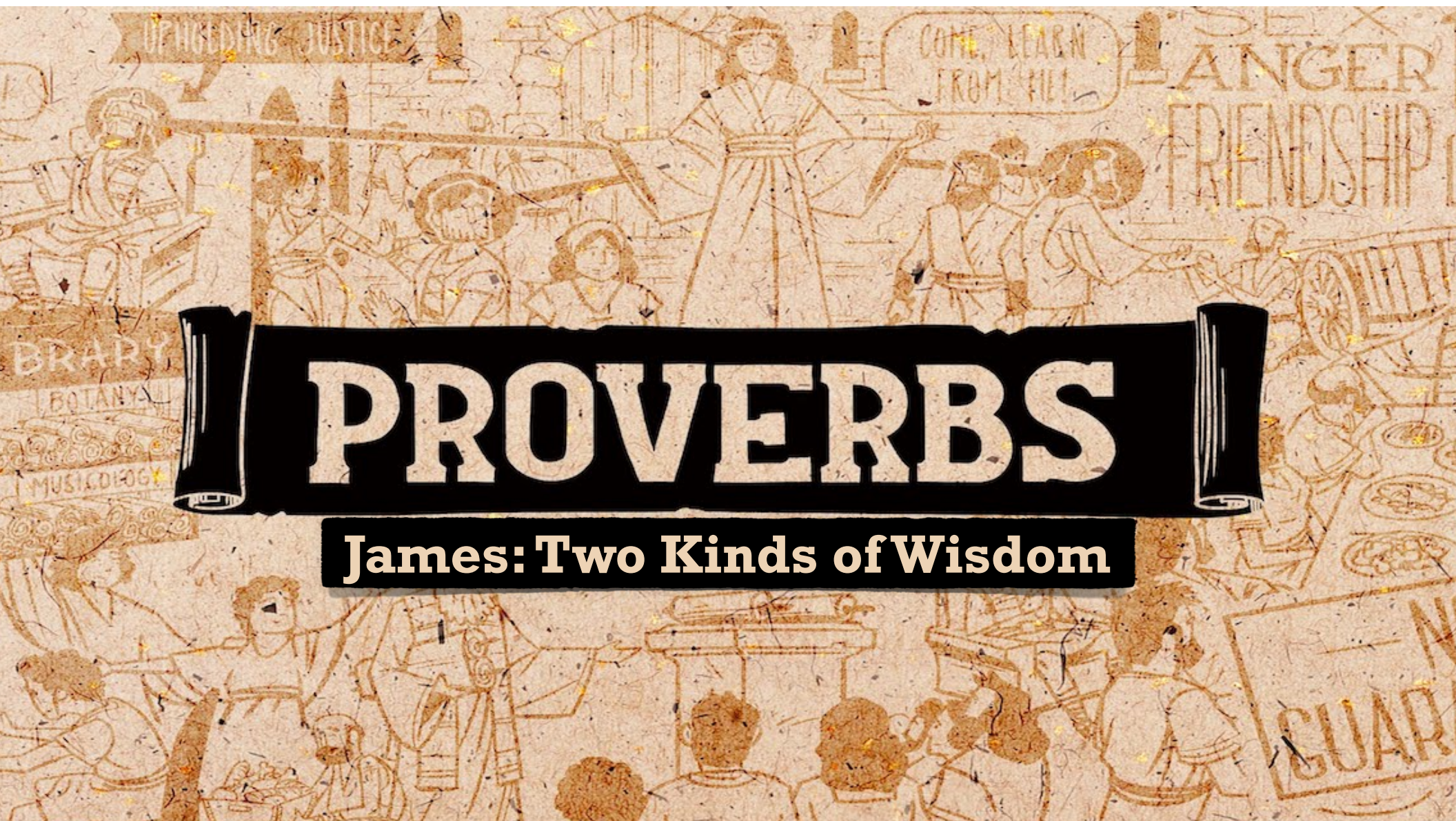
5:21-23 For the **ways** of a man are before the **eyes** of the LORD,
He **watches** all his **paths**.

Iniquities of **his own making** will capture the wicked,
He will be held with the cords of **his sin**.

He will die for **lack of instruction** (*musar*),
In the greatness of **his folly** (*aveel, insolent*) he will go astray.

The father does not present the life of wisdom
as “easy” or “automatic”. It is difficult.
It takes effort, thought and careful planning.

T.Semple



PROVERBS

James: Two Kinds of Wisdom