

June 7 Answers

- 1) The wise sayings and proverbs of Solomon. As Solomon counseled his own son, he remembered the teaching of his father David: “He taught me and said to me, ‘Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments and live’” (Prov 4:4). This teaches us that a love of wisdom is passed on to the next generation mainly through the **personal** attention that a **parent** gives their child. We need to take **time** each day to impress on our children that there are two paths before them: the way of wisdom and the way of wickedness. We must channel their God-given desire for happiness and success into a pursuit of that which brings true satisfaction and fulfillment: **wisdom**. Notice the verbs that Solomon used: ‘incline your ear,’ ‘when you walk,’ ‘let your eyes look forward,’ ‘keep hold,’ etc. He did this to show us that wisdom is about **action**. It’s about making decisions and choices that please God. It’s not enough to simply know what is right; we must **do** what is right if we would be wise! Much of what Solomon taught his son had to do with the “**strange** woman” (cf. Prov 5:1–23; 6:20–35), that is, the woman who is not **yours**. Solomon knew, of course, that his son would be attracted to beautiful women, and he did not condemn the sexual urge itself. Instead, he encouraged his son: “**Rejoice** in the wife of your youth, a lovely deer, a graceful doe. Let her breasts fill you at all times with **delight**; be **intoxicated** always in her love” (Prov 5:18–19). This teaches us that being wise is more than merely **denying** ourselves forbidden pleasure. Rather, it is actively finding **joy** in the many good things that God has given us. The question is this: will we **feast** on what God has provided or will we **chase** after what He has forbidden?