



What a walk we've gone on through the book of *Proverbs*! We've talked about the real goal of life: having a relationship with the LORD behind the wisdom. We've encountered a lot of subjects and traveled down several side paths that still relate to everyday life. But before our study is wrapped up, we need to talk about "the heart of the matter."

Throughout both Old and New Testaments, God speaks of the hearts he has given us in critically important terms. You might remember the words of Jesus...

"This people honors me with their _____,
but their heart is _____ from me..." (Matt 15:8)

"You shall _____ the Lord your God with _____ your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment." (Matt 22:37-38)

🗣️ In your own words, what is Jesus saying about our hearts?

Seventy-seven different times, "the heart" is brought up in the book of *Proverbs*. Clearly, an effort is being made to focus our attention. Consider just a sampling...

Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you;
bind them around your neck;
write them on the _____ of your heart. (3:3)
_____ in the LORD with all your _____,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths. (3:5-6)

🗣️ What do you think? When Solomon describes your "heart," what is he talking about? Why is it so important that our hearts be "kept" (4:23)?

Those of _____ heart are an abomination to the LORD,
but those of _____ ways are his delight. (11:20)

_____ is in the heart of those who devise evil,
but those who plan peace have joy. (12:20)

- 🕒 What does it mean to have a “crooked heart”? How does a human heart even get to that point, and why is it a dangerous place to be?

The heart of him who has understanding _____ knowledge,
but the mouths of fools feed on folly. (15:14)

The heart of the righteous _____ how to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. (15:28)

Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise,
and _____ your heart to my knowledge... (22:17)

- 🕒 What does it mean to “apply your heart”? Does that always come easily and naturally to us? If not, what do we need to work on? Why does it matter?

As in water face reflects face,
so the heart of man _____ the man. (27:19)

Blessed is the one who _____ the LORD always,
but whoever _____ his heart will fall into calamity. (28:14)

- 🕒 How would you summarize what we’ve learned about our hearts throughout this study of *Proverbs*? Where do we go from here? What do we need to do to walk with wisdom?

Proverbs Made Personal

Warning: a message of caution I needed to hear...

Insight: a point I need to remember...

Strength: I was helped and encouraged to walk in wisdom by...

Exalt: God is worthy of honor and praise because...