

✠ Proverbs 4:1-27 ✠

IN NOMINE IESU

Hear, O Israel, the Lord's instruction: "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.

"Walk in the path of righteousness and your step will not be hampered and when you run you will not stumble."

What are the commandments of God? The Ten Commandments? The Laws of Moses? More than that. The commandment of God is to listen to His Son. For His Son is wisdom. Do not forsake wisdom and He will keep you; love Him and He will guard you. Prize Him highly and He will exalt you.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Son of Mary, suffered death on the cross and rose again on the third day so that you would stand cleansed of your sins; free of your guilt. You owe nothing to God to pay for your sins because Jesus paid it all. Upon His payment He secured for you eternal life in the house of God. Such is the Word of God, the Gospel; such is everlasting life.

The wisdom of God is not like the wisdom of man. The wisdom of God does not say, "Get yours while you can, before it is gone." The wisdom of God does not say, "You better taste the milk before you buy the cow." The wisdom of God does not say, "Test the waters before you plunge in."

Rather, the wisdom of God says, "Give to others all that you have, asking nothing in return." The wisdom of God says, "Befriend the outcasts and care for the lepers, caring not what happens to your reputation or body." The wisdom of God says, "Hold nothing back but plunge headlong in and trust God's mercy."

Therefore, Jesus, being the wisdom of God, gave all that He had to others. He is God of God and Light of Light, very God of very God, yet He gave up his state of glory and exaltation and took on the form of a slave; giving up everything, even dying on the cross, for you.

He befriended you, a sinner, an outcast from God's holiness and presence, and so gained access to God for you. He held nothing back but plunged headlong into death. His life's blood flowed from His veins and His lungs gave their last breath so that His blood would course through your veins and you would breathe the breath of life.

The wisdom of God exchanged the righteous for the unrighteous and the holy for the unholy. And in doing so the unholy became holy and the unrighteous became righteous. Therefore, O man, be attentive to the words of wisdom. Incline your ears to the voice of God. Do not let them escape your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh.

The wise in God always hold before themselves the cross of Christ. It shields and protects us from God's wrath, for on it the Son of Man drained the cup of God's wrath. So it also guards

and keeps us from the evil one, for on it the Son of God met the enemy and defeated him.

Therefore be wise, repent. Turn from your crooked speech and put your devious talk behind you. Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. For the way of the wicked is the rejection of God's Son, and whoever rejects the Son rejects the One who sent Him. Evil is not merely wrapped up in what we do or do not do, but consists primarily in our attitude toward God. Therefore kiss the Son lest He become angry and His wrath burn against you and you perish along the way (Psalm 2). Repent.

Let your eyes always look directly forward at the cross of Jesus, for He is your light and your salvation; He is your wisdom and your understanding. Whatever falls upon that Cornerstone will be dashed to pieces; and whomever it falls upon will be crushed. Trust not in your understanding or wisdom, but cling ever so tightly to the wisdom of God, the Cross of Christ, and He will give you His glory – eternal life.

In the name of the FATHER and of the ✠ SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.

✠ AMEN ✠