**As for Me and My House – Pr. 4:23**

**Focal Truth: Godly parents watch their hearts and teach their children to**

 **watch their hearts**

Do you know the importance of your heart – your thoughts, emotions, desires on your life?

Are you aware of what is in your heart?

Do you know how to watch & guard your heart from sin & ungodliness?

Do your children know how to watch & guard their hearts from sin & ungodliness?

**Observations**

**1. Godly parents understand the importance of knowing God’s word by heart**

 **4:21**

 *Do not let them depart from your sight, keep them in the midst of your heart – 4:21*

a. The heart is the mind, emotions, desires & will of a person

 b. God’s word taught by godly parents must be set in the heart of their children

 c. Pr. 7:1 – my son, keep my words & treasure my commandments within you

 d. Ps. 119:11 – your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against

 you

**2. Godly parents carefully guard their hearts from ungodliness & teach their**

 **children to guard their hearts – 4:23**

*Watch over your heart with all diligence*

a. Jer. 17:9 – heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick…

 Sin affects the mind & emotions & desires & decisions

 b. Watch your heart diligently

 Watch = guard, protect & maintain

 Diligence = confinement – continual guards over a jail

 c. Watching your heart for sinful thoughts, emotions, desires & choices

 d. Protecting your heart by spiritual thoughts, emotions, desires & choices

 e. Maintaining a holy heart by daily examination of your heart

 f. Deut.4:9 – take heed to your way, and keep your soul diligently

**3. Godly parents know that a guarded heart leads to holy living – 4:23 - 27**

 *from it flow the springs of life*

 a. The heart like a spring is the source of the actions of life

 From the heart come our thoughts

 From the heart come our emotions

 From the heart come our desires

 From the heart come our choices

 b. Luke 6:45 – the good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth

 what is good, & the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil,

 for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart

 c. Watch your actions & know your heart

 Watch the words of your mouth - 4:24

 *Put away from you a deceitful mouth, &devious speech from you*

 Watch your eyes & what they desire – 4:25

 *Let your eyes look directly ahead, &let your gaze be fixed in front of you*

Watch your feet & the places they go - 4:26 - 27

 *Watch the path of your feet & all your ways will be established. Do not turn to*

 *right not to the left, turn your foot from evil*

**Things to Remember**

1. Heart work is extremely important work

2. Salvation comes from the heart – with the heart man believes to salvation

 Rom. 10:10

3. The wicked heart is a fountain of poison – but the purified heart is a well of living

 water

4. The heart’s condition reveals a person’s life condition

**Daily Use – Family Challenges**

1. Keep your heart for God

2. Talk with your children & grandchildren about their thoughts, emotions, desires

 & choices

3. Know the condition of your children’s hearts as well as your own heart

4. Watch your actions they will reveal the condition of your heart

**Watch over your heart with all diligence, fro from it flow the springs of life**