

Proverbs 4:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

Analysis

Good doctrine requires diligent attention. The Hebrew 'leqach tov' (good learning/doctrine) indicates quality instruction worth preserving. The command not to forsake implies active retention - wisdom must be guarded or it will be lost. This verse emphasizes both the value of sound teaching and personal responsibility to maintain it. Truth doesn't automatically persist; it requires intentional cultivation.

Historical Context

In oral cultures where written texts were scarce, memorization and verbal transmission preserved wisdom across generations. Fathers teaching sons (v.1) represented primary educational model. Forsaking good doctrine meant generational loss of divine wisdom.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'good doctrine' have you received that requires intentional effort to retain?

2. How can you ensure you don't forsake sound teaching amid competing voices?
3. What practices help you guard and preserve biblical truth?

Interlinear Text

יְהוָה	לְךָ	טוֹב	נָתַתִּי	לְךָ	יְהוָה	אֶל	תַּעֲזֹבוּ:
H3588	doctrine	you good	For I give	H0	ye not my law	H408	forsake
	H3948	H2896	H5414		H8451		H5800

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 4:6 (Word): If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

Deuteronomy 32:2 (Parallel theme): My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

Titus 1:9 (Word): Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Job 33:3 (Word): My words shall be of the uprightness of my heart: and my lips shall utter knowledge clearly.

Job 11:4 (Parallel theme): For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (Parallel theme): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

2 Chronicles 7:19 (Word): But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them;

