

The Safety of Wisdom, part 2

“Wisdom is knowing the right path to take. Integrity is taking it.”

M.H. McKee

Proverbs 4:10-19 Christian Standard Bible

Two Ways of Life

10 Listen, my son. Accept my words,
and you will live many years.

11 I am teaching you the way of wisdom;
I am guiding you on straight paths.

12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered;
when you run, you will not stumble.

13 Hold on to instruction; don't let go.
Guard it, for it is your life.

14 Keep off the path of the wicked;
don't proceed on the way of evil ones.

15 Avoid it; don't travel on it.
Turn away from it, and pass it by.

16 For they can't sleep
unless they have done what is evil;
they are robbed of sleep
unless they make someone stumble.

17 They eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.

18 The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
shining brighter and brighter until midday.

19 But the way of the wicked is like the darkest gloom;
they don't know what makes them stumble.

Something to think about...

What are some experiences, from your past in which you chose wisdom and benefited?

A CLOSER LOOK: PICKING THE RIGHT PATHWAY

“Listen, my son” marks the beginning of a new section, yet echos a renewed plea for careful attentiveness to wise counsel and its promise of long life. To be taught the way of wisdom and to be guided on straight paths is not a guarantee of immunity from trouble, but there is no other way to consistently avoid life's calamities that lead to disaster.

To walk unhindered leads to running without stumbling. A clear path, a runway free from obstacles, lets the runner run and the airplane take flight. No one signs up to stumble or to fall, but I've got my shares of bumps bruises and scars to remind me I have often found myself grounded by obstacles I didn't clearly see or don't want to see. Like a walking stick on a outdoor path, or the handrail of a staircase we should hold on to wisdom for dear life with every step.

Obstacles on the path of life are one thing, but avoiding the path of destruction is another. The writer says, “Keep off the path of the wicked,” You don't need a theology degree to know what that means. Don't proceed— avoid it — turn away— pass it by— are clear warnings that even a child can heed. And if we need one more example, the father makes it simpler still “the path of the righteous is like the LIGHT of the dawn” but “the way of the wicked is like the DARKNESS of gloom”. Walk in the light!

We must choose between the path that leads to life and the paths that lead to destruction. Choose the path of life.

“LET US PRAY...”

God thank you for giving us your words that are a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Help us today to choose the path of life. By your grace and mercy please help us to holdfast to godly wisdom and to avoid stumbling on this journey. And thank you for picking us up when we fall. AMEN

NEXT WEEK... *The Safety of Wisdom, part 3— Proverbs 4:20-27*