

“A Well-Lighted Path” Proverbs 4:18-19

¹⁸ But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.
¹⁹ The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.
Proverbs 4:18–19 (NKJV)

I. God speaks a great deal in His Word about “paths” and “ways” –

1. The first Psalm speaks of the “way” of the righteous, it starts with a comparison of wrong and right ways - ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Psalm 1:6 (NKJV)

The LORD’s knowledge of the way of the righteous, is a knowledge of FAVOR, the way of the righteous is the way God blesses!

2. God’s word is a light to the right path –

¶ Nun ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

3. The right way is a narrow way, that most people MISS –

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

A. It is important to understand what is meant here by “narrow” – Driving in Okinawa – difficult, but ultimately safer because it leads to life.

B. The broad seems nice, most people are on it, but it **leads to destruction**

4. Ultimately Jesus is the Way –

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6 (NKJV)

5. This is the way we are to teach our children, our families –

¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Genesis 18:19 (NKJV)

This is what we are seeing in Proverbs 4:

A. Solomon is teaching his children -

⁴ Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding;
² For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. Proverbs 4:1–2 (NKJV)

B. He is teaching them what his father David taught him -

³ When I was my father’s son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ He also taught me, and said to me: “Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.
Proverbs 4:3–4 (NKJV)

6. It is a way for which we should PRAY –

⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Psalm 25:4 (NKJV)

II. Here this way is called the path of the just -

¹⁸ But the path of the just... Proverbs 4:18 A

Hebrew צַדִּיק, *saddiq*— *just, righteous, devout, innocent*

1. *We need to understand we are not by nature just, nor do we by nature chose or walk in this way –*

¹⁰ **As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV)**

2. *God’s righteousness is imputed to us –*

²¹ **But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; Romans 3:21–22 (NKJV)**

3. *God makes us alive by His grace and changes are walk and direction –*

2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1–3 (NKJV)

4. *It is this NEW WLK that moves us in the right ways –*

⁸ **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10**

III. The path of the just is a well-lighted path -

But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. Proverbs 4:18 (NKJV)

1. *It is a lighted path because it is the Way in which Jesus Christ leads –*

¹² **Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12 (NKJV)**

2. *Scripture lights this Way too –*

Nun ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

3. *The light is a morning light, a healthful light –*

⁸ **Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Isaiah 58:8 (NKJV)**

A. *I believe the healing mentioned here is first spiritual and moral, but it can be physical*

B. *It is also not only a personal healing, but also a social and contagious healing – the Devil’s Darkness spreads disease, God’s light spreads HEALTH!*

4. *This light is a growing light - that shines ever brighter* Proverbs 4:18 B

“It is a growing light; it *shines more and more*, not like the light of a meteor, which soon disappears, or that of a candle, which burns dim and burns down, but like that of the rising sun, which goes forward shining, mounts upward shining. Grace, the guide of this way, is growing; *he that has clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.*”

Matthew Henry

5. *It is an evangelistic light –*

¹⁴ “**You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.** ¹⁵ **Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are in the house.*** ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

“**Which shines brighter and brighter until full day:** The Hebrew is literally “going and shining [meaning it shines more and more, or shines ever more brightly] until the day is established,” that is, until the sun is at its brightest.”

W.D. Reyburn & E.M. Fry

A. Going reminded me of Jesus command –

¹⁹ **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,** ²⁰ **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.** Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

B. *We glorify God when we shine for Him –*

¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.** Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

IV. *The ways of the wicked are OPPOSITE –*

¹⁹ **The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.** Proverbs 4:18–19 (NKJV)

1. *This is the extreme opposite of the path of the just –*

“**The way of the wicked is like deep darkness.** It has no direction, no comfort, no safety, no peace.”

Charles Bridges

Their way is not just dark but **darkness** as a result of ignorance, error, sin, and misery. The love of sin rebels against the light.

Charles Bridges

2. *As the path of the just leads to Heaven, this leads to Hell, and gives the wicked their first tastes of Hell –*

³⁰ **And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’** Matthew 25:30 (NKJV)

3. *This great darkness is what we see all around us in the world TODAY –*

A. It starts with NOT glorifying or being thankful to God -

²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, Romans 1:21 A (NKJV)

B. *Bad thinking led to foolish, darkened hearts -*

but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:21 B2 (NKJV)

C. *They arrogantly deceive themselves thinking they are wise, when they are fools -*

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools, Romans 1:22 (NKJV)

D. *They count themselves, and animals to be gods and goddesses, evolution -*

and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Romans 1:23 (NKJV)

E. *God gives them up to uncleanness, immorality, homosexuality -*

²⁴ Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. ²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Romans 1:24–27 (NKJV)

F. *Their “F” grade in “Theology” means God fails them, letting them go their own way, on their own path, to darkness and destruction -*

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Romans 1:28–32 (NKJV)

The two paths could not be more different:

- One is light, the other is darkness
- One God’s knowledge the other man’s ignorance
- One seems right, the other is right
- One is moral, according to God’s law, the other is immoral, according to fleshly lusts
- One leads to life, the other to death and destruction
- One is difficult but safe, while the other seems easy, but it is a path full of nails, pitfalls, lies and errors
- One is the way of Jesus Christ, the other of Satan