

Walking on Wisdom's Path
Proverbs 2:12-22
July 5, 2015

Introduction

We are living in a time where we are really needing God's words to guide us since we have so much false ideas that are contrary to God's word out there. We need protection and we need guidance. The church needs such guidance since there will be many people who are not of the faith leaving us. There will many who will reject the Bible and follow the world. We need to know what God says in His word in order for us to stay on the correct path. Thankfully, through the Lord, Solomon provides us with guidance and direction to identify the safe path of wisdom.

I. Identifying the Deceivers (12-15)

12 *Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men,
from men whose words are perverse,*

13 *who leave the straight paths
to walk in dark ways,*

14 *who delight in doing wrong
and rejoice in the perverseness of evil,*

15 *whose paths are crooked
and who are devious in their ways.*

- Explanation
 - Solomon explains to his son that going off from wisdom's path is like going off a path that is well-known and clear
 - That off-path is full of danger and death
 - It is a path that no such sane person would attempt
 - Yet fools are on it all the time
- Perverse words
 - Hebrew for "perverse" = upside down (or opposite)
 - Opposite of what?
 - Opposite of God's revealed word

Isaiah 5:20 *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.*

- These are thoughts, ideas that are opposed to God
 - Examples: marriage, baby's life, gender issues
 - Namely: Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage (and PCUSA and Anglican)
 - Very opposite of what God says
 - Solomon says that those things leads to darkness
- Devious
 - They are doing this on purpose

Note: But they are nice people! Nicety is not the measure of goodness because evil people can be nice. The measure is how close or far they are from God's word. If they reject God's word completely and are nice, then by Biblical definition, they are evil.

- This is not an accidental thoughts or ideas or even ignorance
- This is willful and knowingly rejection of Scripture

Proverbs 6:12-14

12 *A scoundrel and villain,
who goes about with a corrupt mouth,
13 who winks with his eye,
signals with his feet
and motions with his fingers,
14 who plots evil with deceit in his heart-
he always stirs up dissension.*

- They are dishonest in their thoughts
- Delight in doing wrong
 - They loving the thoughts of going against God's word
 - They love the experience of self-will and exercise of power
 - This is actually the last stage of wickedness
 - Humiliated—those who give into sin for the first time
 - Indifference—when committing sins repeatedly
 - Enjoyment—happens after repeated sins
 - Paths of darkness
 - All those who oppose God are in the realm of darkness

Romans 13:12-13 *The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.*

II. Identifying the Adulteress (16-19)

16 *It will save you also from the adulteress,
from the wayward wife with her seductive words,
17 who has left the partner of her youth
and ignored the covenant she made before God.
18 For her house leads down to death
and her paths to the spirits of the dead.
19 None who go to her return
or attain the paths of life.*

- Explanation
 - Solomon is warning his son in a way that will horrify him
 - Comparison of going to a house of adulteress to a sinkhole
- Adulteress
 - She has left her husband
 - She has quit on God
 - She is not in a godly relationship
- Seductive words
 - The way to a man's heart is through his ears

Proverbs 19:13b *and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.*

Proverbs 21:9 *Better to live on a corner of the roof
than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.*

- She uses flattery to seduce the young men to her bed
- She does it on purpose
- House of death
 - Pursuit of adultery leads to death
 - Physical death
 - VD and STDs (decaying body and health)
 - Violation of conscience

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

- Violation of marriage vows
- Spiritual and eternal death
 - No one who goes to her returns
 - Those who pursuit illicit sex are in danger of eternal hell

Galatians 5:19-21 *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

III. Reward of Wisdom (20-22)

20 *Thus you will walk in the ways of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.*

21 *For the upright will live in the land, and the blameless will remain in it;*

22 *but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the unfaithful will be torn from it.*

- Wisdom will save us from deceivers and adulterers
- What is wisdom?
 - Skill in living in fear of YHWH

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

Proverbs 2:5-6

5 *then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.*

6 *For the LORD gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

- We live to do what God wants as He has revealed in His word
- Our joy is to please God
- How does it save us?
 - Walk in path of righteousness

Psalms 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?*

Psalms 36:9 *For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.*

Psalms 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*

- God's word helps us to keep on the right path
- It is light (safety)
- This walk is not just individual but for the church as well

Hebrews 10:24-25 *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. 25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

- Wisdom's reward

- Positive

- Blessings

- For the upright and blameless
- They do what is right and shun evil

Job 1:1 *In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.*

- The land of promise
- Trusting in God means that our needs are fulfilled
- Feeling safe
- In the presence of God

- Negative

- Cursed

- Cut off

- O.T. example: person cut off means either

- Dead
- Completely separate outside of nation

- They will never have eternal life

Coram Deo

The church must make a stand and help those who are wavering to become strong. How? By standing firm on the Word of God and depending on His word for life.