

Bright Path of a Wise Life – and Its Opposite

God's Revolutionary Wisdom (Part 30)

Proverbs 4:1-9

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Pastor Dan Phillips

Copperfield Bible Church

¹⁰ Listen, my son, and receive my sayings,
That the years of life may be many for you.

¹¹ In the **way** of wisdom I instruct you,
I **direct** you¹ in the **roads** of uprightness.²

¹² When you **walk**, your step will not be **hampered**,
And if you **run**, you will not **stumble**.

¹³ Grasp discipline, do not let go,
Guard her, for she is your life.

¹⁴ In the **path** of wicked ones do not **enter**,
And do not **advance** in the **way** of evil ones.

¹⁵ Ignore it, do not **go on** it,
Turn aside from it and **go on**.

¹⁶ For they do not sleep if they do not harm,³
And they are robbed of sleep⁴ if they do not
make someone **stumble**.

¹⁷ For they feed on the bread of wickedness,
And the wine of violent acts they drink.

¹⁸ So the **path** of righteous ones is as the bright
light,⁵

Giving more and more light⁶ until the full
day.⁷

¹⁹ The **way** of wicked ones is like gloom;
They do not know over what they **stumble**!
[DJP; **bolding** added]

Introduction:

I. _____ the Way of Wisdom (vv. 10-13)

A. _____ ing It _____ (vv. 10-11)

1. Note the *verbs*:

2. Note the *nouns*:

B. _____ ing It _____ (v. 12)

1. What will it provide?

¹ Literally “caused-you-to-make-your-way” (one word in Hebrew).

² Or “straight roads.”

³ Or “do evil.”

⁴ Literally “their sleep is robbed.”

⁵ Literally “light of brightness.”

⁶ An idiom; literally “**walking** and giving light”

⁷ Literally “the establishing of the day.”

2. What will it preclude?

C. _____ing It (v. 13)

II. _____ the Path of the Wicked (vv. 14-17)

A. Plea to Avoid (vv. 14-15)

B. Reasons for Avoiding (vv. 16-17)

III. _____ the Ways (vv. 18-19)

A. The Path of the Righteous (v. 18)

1. **First:** the path of the righteous *progresses*

2 Corinthians 3:18

1 Peter 2:2

2. **Second:** the *end* is gloriously bright

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

B. The Way of the Wicked (v. 19)