

*Evening Worship September 9, 2018*  
*"The Path of the Just" Proverbs 4:11-19*

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

*I love the path / way passages in Scripture, I have preached on many of them, here is another!*

*I. It is about "wisdom" –*

- 1. Wisdom in this passage is first something we have to be taught, we have to be "led" to the right paths, because going to them does not come naturally to us -*

**I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. (Proverbs 4:11 NKJ)**

*2. Wisdom as a road, as a path is the fast, smooth track –*

**<sup>12</sup> When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble. (Proverbs 4:12 NKJ)**

*Christ indicates that the right, narrow way is more difficult –*

**"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. <sup>14</sup> "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 NKJ)**

*Do Christ and Solomon disagree? Do they contradict one another? No, they agree totally, but they are talking about different aspects of the same thing!*

- A. When Solomon speaks of walking, stepping, running and not being hindered he is talking about the way to Heaven, which is wisdom, which is God's way, which we are directed to in Scripture, which ultimately is Christ, if we walk this way we are on the right track, we can be sure God will bless us, and help us on our way.*
- B. When Jesus is speaking about a narrow way in contrast to a broad way, and a difficult way, He is talking about how the right way will seem and be in our experience. Because we are sinners,*

*and because we live in a sin-filled world, going the right way involves us going against the majority and even against our own sin nature, this is why the right way is uncomfortable, However, Christ certainly agrees with Solomon that the narrow way is the best, fastest, smoothest way to Heaven, because they other way or ways don't get there at all! Sliding down a hill is always easier than climbing up, but if your goal is to get to the top sliding down will never get you there!*

*II. It is about instruction, getting it, holding it –*

**<sup>13</sup> Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life. (Proverbs 4:13 NKJ)**

*God's Word gives us plenty of instruction, it is our spiritual, moral GPS*

*A. It is a way lighted by God's word – Psalm 119:105*

**NUN. Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NKJ)**

*B. It is the narrow way – Matthew 7:13-14*

**"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. <sup>14</sup> "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 NKJ)**

*C. It is the WAY which is Christ – John 14:6*

**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 NKJ)**

*D. It is opposite of the way that "seems right to a man" – Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; Judges 2:19 "My way" Frank Sinatra*

**There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (Proverbs 14:12 NKJ)**

**And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they reverted and behaved more corruptly than their fathers, by following other gods, to serve them and bow down to them. They did not cease from their own doings nor from their stubborn way. (Judges 2:19 NKJ)**

*E. It is the way of those who "trust in the Lord" – Proverbs 3:5-6*

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJ)**

*F. It is the way to teach our children – Genesis 18:19*

**"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 NKJ)**

*G. It is a way for which we should pray "show me now Your way" –*

*Exodus 33:12-13; Psalm 86:11*

Then Moses said to the LORD, ...' 13 "Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people." (Exodus 33:12-13 NKJ)

Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. (Psalm 86:11 NKJ)

*H. It is the way God promises to make prosperous – Joshua 1:8*

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Joshua 1:8 NKJ)

*I. It is the way God preserves – Joshua 24:17*

"for the LORD our God *is* He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. (Joshua 24:17 NKJ)

*J. It is the perfect way, the way of victory – 2 Samuel 22:31-37*

As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. 32 "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God? 33 God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect. 34 He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. 35 He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great. 37 You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip. (2 Samuel 22:31-37 NKJ)

*K. It is a way to hold to – Job 17:9*

Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger. (Job 17:9 NKJ)

*L. . It is the way the Lord knows – Job 23;10-12; Psalm 1:6; 37:23*

But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. 11 My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. 12 I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food. (Job 23:10-12 NKJ)

For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:6 NKJ)

*M. It is the way God will teach the humble – Psalm 25:8-9*

Good and upright *is* the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. <sup>9</sup>The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. (Psalm 25:8-9 NKJ)

*N. It is the way to be revived to – Psalm 119:37*

Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, *and* revive me in Your way. (Psalm 119:37 NKJ)

*III. It is the path that grows brighter, in contrast to dangerous darkness –*

*1. Consider how the wrong way is described –*

*A. God has placed a “do not enter” sign in front of it –*

<sup>14</sup> Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. (Proverbs 4:14 NKJ)

*B. This is a repeated warning, the red lights are flashing, the robot is yelling “danger, danger, danger” –*

Avoid it, do not travel on it; turn away from it and pass on. (Proverbs 4:15 NKJ)

*C. The way of the wicked is like an addicting drug, they not only indulge in it but WANT YOU TO also –*

For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make *someone* fall. <sup>17</sup>For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence. (Proverbs 4:16-17 NKJ)

*D. Their fall is a certainty, they just don’t know how it will be –*

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

*2. The way of the righteous, the just is the opposite –*

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

*A. It shines like the shining sun, Christ is our Shining Light –*

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 NKJ)

*B. Our righteousness starts with His being imputed to us – Romans 3:21-23*

*C. It grows as we grow in grace - <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7 NKJ)*

<sup>22</sup> I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you." (Isaiah 44:22 NKJ)

See also 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 1:5-11 & :19

*Arnold A. Brevick*