

Have you ever wanted to do something, but you didn't have exactly what you needed to do it the right way?

What's Wrong
With This
Picture?







- There is a right way and a wrong way to most things in life
- There is a right way and a wrong way to life itself

A landscape scene featuring a tree on the left with a green canopy and bare branches, several birds flying in the sky, and a sunset or sunrise sky with warm orange and yellow tones. The foreground is a green field.

That They May Have Life

God's Desire

- God wants us to know Him
- God wants us to love Him
- God wants us to be like Him
- This is where we find the real life!
(John 17:3)

Deut. 30:17

- Death & Adversity:
 - If your heart turns away
 - You will not obey
 - You are drawn away
 - You worship & serve other gods

Deut. 30:17

- *You shall surely perish*
 - *Perish: destruction, ruin*
 - The wages of sin is *always* death

The Path of Life

- You will make known to me the path of life (Ps. 16:11a)
- How do we walk *the path of life*?

Way and Path?

- *derek*: *well-worn path*; figuratively *manner, conduct, lifestyle* [repetition]
 - There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
(Prov. 14:12; 16:25)

Way and Path?

- *'orah: path or way, often emphasizing the destination or end; man's lot in life*
 - The further you go, the deeper it gets
- Used interchangeably / in parallel

Two Paths

- Man has two choices:
 1. The path of [to] death
 2. The path of [to] life
- If you are not on one, you are on the other

Two Paths

1. Path of death

- Path of the violent (Ps. 17:4)

- Path of evil (Ps. 119:101)

- Path of greed (Prov. 1:19)

- Path of the wicked (Prov. 4:14)

Two Paths

1. Path of death

–Falsehood, crookedness, adultery,
deception, darkness, difficulty,
grievous punishment, laziness, ruin

Two Paths

1. Path of death

–So are the ways [paths/ends] of everyone who gains by violence; It takes away the life of its possessors.
(Prov. 1:19)

Theological Wordbook of the OT

“Proverbs 1:19 indicates ... that consequences of evil behavior are intrinsic to that action and are not superimposed as a penalty.”

Two Paths

- God has structured life in such a way that there are natural consequences built into our choices and actions
 - Prov. 30:32-33
 - Choose wisely!

Two Paths

2. Path of life (Ps. 16:11)
 - Paths of the Lord (Ps. 25:4, 10)
 - Path of justice (Prov. 2:8)
 - Path of uprightness (Prov. 2:13)
 - Path of the righteous (Prov. 4:18)

Two Paths

2. Path of life (Ps. 16:11)

–Truth, justice, mercy, compassion,
light, honesty, wisdom, straightness,
ease, safety, security, integrity,
blessing

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Learn from God
 - You will make known to me the path of life (Ps. 16:11a)
 - Make me know Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. (Ps. 25:4)

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Learn from God
 - We are born with a certain bent
 - We need to renew our minds
 - Proverbs 1-9; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-11

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Learn from God
 - How can a young man keep his way [path] pure? By keeping it according to Your word. (Ps. 119:9)
 - “It is written...” (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10)

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness
 - In the way [path] of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death (Prov. 12:28)
 - God loves one who pursues righteousness (Prov. 15:9)

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness
 - 1 Tim. 6:11
 - 2 Tim. 2:22
 - *holiness* – Heb. 12:14

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness

- Pursue: *to follow or press hard after, to pursue with earnestness and diligence in order to obtain, to go after with the desire of obtaining*

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness
 - *Righteousness: conforming to God's nature*
 - The Lord is righteous in all His ways
(Ps. 145:17)

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness
 - The righteous serve God - Mal. 3:16-18
 - The righteous give freely - Ps. 37:21
 - The righteous live by faith - Hab. 2:4

How do we follow the Path of Life

- Pursue righteousness
 - What about Phil. 3?!
 - Not having a righteousness of my own, but pursuing the righteousness which comes by faith

So What?

- Is there anything in your life that just isn't working right?
 - Your job, marriage, family relationship, a friendship, church, etc.?
 - Are you doing those things God's way?