

Terminal Stupidity

AN OLD MAN'S FINAL OFFER: Choose Your Destiny

Deuteronomy 30:15-19

THE PATH OF BLESSING

- (1) Requires **FULL OBEDIENCE**.
Deuteronomy 28:1-14 Deuteronomy 30:11-13 Proverbs 4:18 Jeremiah 18:7-10
- (2) Includes **SIGNIFICANT HARDSHIPS** along the way.
1 Peter 4:12 John 16:33 Judges 1:19 Psalm 73 Ephesians 6:10-20
- (3) Demands lots of **PATIENCE**.
Exodus 23:27-30 Luke 3:23 Genesis 21:5 & Hebrews 6:15

THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION

- (1) Is clearly marked with lots of **WARNING SIGNS**.
Deuteronomy 28:15-68 Matthew 10:28 Proverbs 9:10 Proverbs 1:22-33
- (2) Starts out **WONDERFULLY** then goes bad **SUDDENLY**.
Genesis 3:6 Proverbs 4:19
- (3) Always has a **WAY OUT**.
Deuteronomy 30:1-14 Judges 10:6-16 Romans 7:21-25

Food for Thought for the week of July 31, 2016

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Larry pointed out that there is a path to blessing and a path to destruction and he highlighted how the paths aren't always what we thought they would be. Whether we know it or not, we've all made choices about which path to take, and will have to make more. How could the following verses further support Larry's point and help equip someone to take the right path in the future?

Psalms 119:105 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.

Proverbs 3:5-6 *New International Version (NIV)*

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
⁶ in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Matthew 3:3 *New International Version (NIV)*

³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:
"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

Proverbs 5:1-14 *New International Version (NIV)*

Warning Against Adultery

¹ My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,
² that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.
³ For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;
⁴ but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.
⁵ Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.
⁶ She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.
⁷ Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.
⁸ Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,
⁹ lest you lose your honor to others
and your dignity to one who is cruel,
¹⁰ lest strangers feast on your wealth
and your toil enrich the house of another.
¹¹ At the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are spent.
¹² You will say, "How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!
¹³ I would not obey my teachers
or turn my ear to my instructors.
¹⁴ And I was soon in serious trouble
in the assembly of God's people."

Proverbs 14:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹² There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.

Psalms 25:10 *New International Version (NIV)*

¹⁰ All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

2. For most of us, the thought of going through hardships as followers of Jesus is a somewhat intimidating thought. This may depend on what our past experience with hardships has been or what we're currently going through. The good news is that God is a constant presence in our hardships and we don't have to go through them alone. As you reread some of the verses from this week's sermon, what comfort can you find that could help someone going through a hardship?

1 Peter 4:12 *New International Version (NIV)*

Suffering for Being a Christian

¹² Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

John 16:33 *New International Version (NIV)*

³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Romans 8:31-39 *New International Version (NIV)*

More Than Conquerors

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶ As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Can you think of a time when God was at work in a challenge you were facing? How did you experience God's presence?

3. This weekend we were reminded that the path of destruction is clearly marked with warning signs. Despite this fact, many of us ignore the warnings or justify why they don't quite apply to us. If we're being honest, all of us can see signs that we're heading toward danger. What warning signs do you see in your own life that could indicate you're heading towards trouble?