



## The Way of Life!

*The Blessings of Living According to Christ and His Word*  
Special Encouragement on Family and Friends Day, September 25, 2022

### **Holy Texts to Consider**

**Proverbs 6:23 (KJV)** *For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:*

**Proverbs 10:17 (KJV)** *He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.*

**Proverbs 15:24 (KJV)** *The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.*

### Thoughts:

1. Our focus today will be on this phrase, “The way of life.”
2. Concerning our Texts, the book of Proverbs, predominantly written by King Solomon, was primarily written from a parent to his child. It is an instruction book on how to live a godly and prosperous life. It is filled with practical wisdom and admonitions to pursue such. Indeed, it opens with...

**Proverbs 1:7 (KJV)** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

And closes with...

**Proverbs 31:30 (KJV)** *Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.*

3. I contend that “living biblically” is the best path to a joyful life! It is “the way of life!”
  - In Prov 6:23, the “commandment” is the “law of thy father and mother.” (Prov 6:20) But the overall context of Proverbs (inspired Scripture) is fearing God. Hence, a godly father and mother’s commandment would be a restatement of God’s own precepts.
  - This type of commandment is a lamp. That is, it brightens, shows, and reveals the right path! It is also a light; it illuminates!
  - And even when it reproves (assigns blame and corrects), it should be considered “instruction” in “the way of life!”
  - In other words, the father is showing the son that wise and godly instruction (such as flows from the Bible) should not be avoided (even when it is hard) but embraced! It brings life!
  - Prov 10:17 repeats the same: good and godly living is a result of keeping instruction. The one who refuses is the one who errs! Culture has it backwards!
  - Prov 15:24 teaches us that choosing the “way of life” leads to “above.” Those who “choose life” are on a road that leads to heaven...to Christ. They walk upon the highway of holiness! (Isa 35:8) From a NT perspective, they have been transformed by God to desire His precepts and, by God’s grace, are no longer on the path to hell and destruction!

**Proverbs 16:17 (KJV)** *The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.*

- Many Christians have taken comfort in verses like these when their obedience instigates discord and persecution. Jesus said:

**Matthew 5:10-12 (KJV)** *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*

4. Let us rejoice in the Way of Life! Just listen to what Scriptures say:

**Psalms 119:11 (KJV)** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

**Psalms 119:16 (KJV)** *I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

**Psalms 119:67 (KJV)** *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*

5. Amen! Living according to Christ and His word brings blessings!

**Psalms 19:7-11 (KJV)** *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

6. Our heart for you today is to simply say yes to God. Yes to His will and way. Yes to the beauty of His Word. Yes to a life of godly wisdom, which Scripture calls “pleasant with peaceful paths.” (Prov 3:17)
7. All around us is the chaos of doing things our own way, inspired much by the world and the devil:

**Luke 4:5-6 (KJV)** *And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.*

**Ephesians 2:2 (KJV)** *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

**1 John 5:19 (KJV)** *And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

**Revelation 12:9 (KJV)** *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

8. Sadly, the church is not immune:

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4 (KJV)** *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.*

9. But friends, God's ways are different! Be encouraged:

**Psalms 107:17-21 (KJV)** *Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. 18 Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. 19 Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. 20 He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. 21 Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

10. One more time: Build on the Rock!

**Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV)** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

### **The Joy of Living According to Christ and His Word!**

**John 15:7-11 (KJV)** *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

**John 10:10 (KJV)** *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

- Our LORD and His holy commandments aren't there to hurt you; He wants to bless His children!
- And even through difficulties, in Christ, you can rejoice!

**1 Peter 1:1-9 (KJV)** *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and*

undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, **5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. **6** Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: **7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: **8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: **9** Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

We would do we to imitate the attitudes of the Psalmist and Mary:

- **Psalms 119:107 (KJV)** *I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.*
- **Psalms 119:116 (KJV)** *Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.*
- **Psalms 119:169 (KJV)** *TAU. Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.*
- **Luke 1:38 (KJV)** *And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.*

### **Practical Blessings!**

In preparation for this message, I a respected Licensed Professional Counselor this question: “What are the top 10 things people in general deal with, issues and problems across-the-board?” She returned (very quickly!) a list of twelve. Beloved, God’s Word has answers for all!

1. Anger
  - **Romans 12:19 (KJV)** *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*
2. Anxiety/Fear/Worry
  - **Psalms 55:22 (KJV)** *Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.*
  - Many fear nots in the Bible! (<https://calvaryreformationchurch.org/sermons/2022/5/be-strong-and-of-a-good-courage>)
3. Unforgiveness
  - **Ephesians 4:32 (KJV)** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*
4. Depression
  - **Psalms 43:5 (KJV)** *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.*
5. Financial Struggles
  - **Philippians 4:11-13 (KJV)** *Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*

6. Addictions (lack of self-control/discipline)
  - **Galatians 5:16 (KJV)** *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
  - **Galatians 5:24 (KJV)** *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
7. Change (Making positive changes)
  - **Luke 22:42 (KJV)** *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*
8. Distrust (God and others)
  - **Proverbs 29:25 (KJV)** *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*
  - **Psalms 119:160 (KJV)** *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*
9. Grief/Loss
  - **Isaiah 40:29 (KJV)** *He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*
  - **Luke 4:18 (KJV)** *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*
10. Marriage challenges, in general
  - **Colossians 3:18-19 (KJV)** *Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.*
  - **Ephesians 6:1-4 (KJV)** *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. 4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*
11. Entitlement/Selfishness/Self-Centeredness
  - **Proverbs 16:18 (KJV)** *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*
  - **Psalms 100:3 (KJV)** *Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*
12. Loneliness
  - **Psalms 46:11 (KJV)** *The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*
  - **Isaiah 41:10 (KJV)** *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*
  - **Matthew 28:20 (KJV)** *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

### **Final Thoughts:**

The early Church called living according to Christ and His Word “this life,” “this way,” and “that way.” (Acts 5:20; 19:23, 22:4).

Our LORD Himself is **THE WAY!**

**John 14:6 (KJV)** Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Way in John 14:6 is *hodos* in Greek. It means “a road, a mode or means of a journey.” Christ is saying that He alone is Road to the Father and to Heaven! Indeed...

**Acts 4:12 (KJV)** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

In order to walk in The Way, you must repent of your sins and believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Mark 1:15; Rom 10:9-10).

Be saved today from false ways, and experience the blessing of THE Way.

Amen.