

Outline – January 16, 2022  
Proverbs 4:10-27; Proverbs 27:9-12  
1 Corinthians 15:33-34; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16  
Life Has Several Paths to Choose From

The path we choose and how we walk that path determines  
success or failure and happiness or despair.

- I. **Everyone is on a path.**
  - A. Jesus described 2 paths
    1. Narrow
    2. Broad
  - B. The path of the righteous  
The path of the wicked
  - C. The path that leads to happiness  
The path that leads to despair
  
- II. **What if everyone chose the path that led to happiness or embraced what is needed to find happiness on their path?**
  - A. It would change their life
  - B. They would see amazing things
  
- III. **What happens when a person chooses the path and the principles that bring happiness?**
  - A. They would enjoy life more
  - B. Less prone to depression
  - C. Physically healthier
  - D. More engaged in relationships
  - E. More productive
  - F. More likely to help others
  - G. More financially responsible
  - H. More resilient
  - I. More mindful of needs of others
  
- IV. **What are some basic principles of every path of life?**
  - A. The path of life only goes forward (there is no reverse)
    1. No “do-overs”
    2. Only live your 20’s once
    3. If you look back too often, it may cause you to miss what’s ahead
    4. Going forward is important

- B. We have to ask ourselves purpose filled questions
  - 1. What do I want my future to look like?
  - 2. What do I want this season of life to look like?
  - 3. What do I want my life in general to look like?
  - 4. What Biblical Principles do I need to apply while traveling on this path, that brings happiness to my soul?
  - 5. Where do I want to land for eternity?

**V. Seven principles we must understand to have confidence and happiness in life**

A. Choose Jesus as your guide

- 1. He said "follow me"
- 2. He said "seek ye first the Kingdom of God"
- 3. He said "believe in him"
- 4. He declared he is the resurrection and life

B. Don't travel alone on the path

- 1. Beware of isolation
- 2. We were created to be connected
- 3. Who we do life with determines our level of happiness
- 4. We were created for fellowship and love
- 5. Learn how to receive it and give it as you travel on your path life

C. Don't pick-up strangers (as you travel the path)

- 1. A stranger is someone who is strange (but aren't we all)
- 2. Be careful of who you allow in your vehicle and whose vehicle you climb into
- 3. Acceptance is a powerful magnet, especially during transformations in life
- 4. We are prone to gravitate toward acceptance
- 5. However, placing someone in your inner circle that doesn't share your beliefs, morals, and values can make your life miserable
- 6. This is what the Bible means by being unequally yoked
- 7. Those who share your values, beliefs, and morals have your back
- 8. Those who do not share your values, beliefs, and morals will:
  - a. Pull you away from God
  - b. Cause you to doubt yourself
  - c. Try to bring you down
  - d. Will seek to quash goals and dreams
  - e. Chip away at your beliefs
  - f. Cause you to lose yourself
  - g. You need to drop them off, though God loves them, you can't handle them

9. If you find yourself saying things, doing things, and believing things that are not biblical, moral, or reasonable, drop them off for your sake and their sake – God loves them, but you can't handle them
  10. You don't keep lending your car to someone who trashes it
- D. Choose a destination and borrow "a map"
1. Everyone ends up somewhere in life (intentionally or unintentionally).
  2. "The win" is to land in heaven.  
"The win" is to succeed at each season or stage in life.
  3. We are called to choose a destination, if not – someone else or circumstances will choose for us.
  4. "Wishing" is not a plan. Direction not intention determines our destination.
  5. What is your destination for this season?
  6. Sometimes you need "a map" because you aren't sure where you are going or what you are doing.
  7. It's ok to ask those who have been there, "How did you do that?"  
Asking for help is a sign of maturity and wisdom.
- E. Pay attention to the signs along the path
1. Pay attention to the signs in your marriage, health, finances, business, children, and spiritual walk
  2. Proverbs 27:12 – "The wise see the signs, see the danger and take refuge."
  3. It is tempting to ignore the signs
  4. Nothing improves when neglected
  5. Examples of ignoring the signs
    - a. "Don't want to talk about it"
    - b. "I don't want to hear it"
    - c. "Don't bring that up"
  6. Ignoring signs may cause you greater problems as things come crashing down
  7. If more than one person brings "something" to your attention, then "That's a sign"
- F. As you travel the path, don't carry unnecessary baggage
1. Unnecessary baggage slows you down
    - a. It's a temptation to "overpack"
    - b. It creates a "weight problem"
  2. What is unnecessary baggage?
    - a. Things from our past only partially resolved
    - b. We have all been hurt, betrayed, "played", and ignored

3. If we don't unpack the unnecessary baggage, the bitterness, darkness, and the demonic will fill our mind
  4. If you are not sure if you are carrying unnecessary baggage, ask those closest to you ... They see it
    - a. They "duck" your anger
    - b. They navigate your "over reaction"
    - c. They make excuses for your mood swings
    - d. They avoid certain topics, so you don't "go off"
    - e. They work hard to ignore your bad habits or addictions
    - f. They are praying you unpack your baggage
    - g. Bible says "get rid of all bitterness and malice, by forgiving each other as Messiah forgave you"
    - h. We forgive not because they deserve it but because we too have been forgiven
- G. Know the Bible is the GPS of life
1. Tells you where you are
  2. Where your headed
  3. How to get there

**When you embrace it, you find contentment  
and happiness on the path of life.**