

The Principle of the Path

Scripture Reading: *Psalm 16*

- A. Paths lead where paths lead, regardless of who is traveling them.
- B. Cars and computers and lawn mowers have problems that can be fixed, but generally speaking, people have **directions** that need to be changed.
- C. Our direction—not simply our intentions—will determine our destination.
- D. God is telling us that it's time to live in the right direction (*Psalm 16:11; 119:105*).

I. “Do Not Stray Into Her Paths...”

- A. In *Proverbs 7*, Solomon is warning his son (and us) about the forbidden path that leads to the dark and deadly valley of sin.
 - 1. So many things should have stopped the young man in his tracks, but they didn't.
 - 2. Each step, each decision, each instance of faltering or procrastinating was a step down a path. He may have had intentions, hopes, dreams, beliefs, prayers...but the direction of his steps determined his destination.
- B. He's not the only one! We all, at times, choose paths that do not lead us in the direction we know is right.

II. The “Prudent” vs. the “Simple”

- A. *Proverbs 27:12* — “*The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.*”
 - 1. The prudent man or woman understands that life is **connected**.
 - 2. The simple man or woman lives as though life is **disconnected**, as if there is no connection between today's choices and tomorrow's experiences.
- B. *Jeremiah 6:16* — “*Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.’*”