

“THE PATH PRINCIPLE”

Destinations, Part 1

February 7th, 2010

The Path Principle

Your direction determines your destination

Your direction, not your intention, determines your destination

The path principle applies to all areas of your life, not just driving

We are either victims or participants in the principle of the path

You often see a huge disconnect in people between where they want to end up and the path they've chosen

We think intention, hopes, & dreams somehow trump the decisions we make on a daily basis

Truth: the path principle trumps our intention, hopes, & dreams every single time

A Biblical Example – Proverbs 7:6-27

Every path has a destination, and the path you choose determines your destination

Proverbs 7:6-7 (NIV) “At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice. I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.”

Proverbs 7:8-9 (NIV) “He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.”

Proverbs 7:10-14 (NIV) “Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent. (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home; now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.) She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said: ‘I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows.’”

We ask God to forgive our sins (empty our sin bucket), and then think we can live any way we want (fill our sin bucket back up)

This is an insult to God. It's like saying, “God, you are so stupid!”

Proverbs 7:15 (NIV) “So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!”

Proverbs 7:16-18 (NIV) “I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon. Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!”

Proverbs 7:19-22 (NIV) “‘My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey. He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon.’ With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk. All at once he followed her...”

Proverbs 7:22-23 (NIV) “All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.”

Proverbs 7:24-26 (NIV) “Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say. Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down;...”

This is not a unique situation; it's so common, so predictable

Proverbs 7:26-27 (NIV) “...her slain are a mighty throng. Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.”

We somehow think we'll be the exception to the rule, but you won't be. It's a path with a laid-out destination

God has set this in place - direction determines destination, not intention

We get enamored with the wrong path because of a strong emotional appeal – not rational, and we get so fixated on the immediate that we don't think about the ultimate

Must ask ourselves, "If I stay on this path is it really going to get me where I ultimately want to be?"

Most of us aren't able to figure this out on our own so God sends key people into our lives

Will we listen or somehow think we will break the principle of the path, that we'll somehow be able to move in a direction and never experience the destination?

This principle, like every principle, can work for you or against you

Key question: What path are you on and where is it taking you?

You can't go back in time – you only get to do life once

Is this the moment you need to be make some course direction corrections because ultimately, direction determines destination

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will reflect on the Principle of the Path & ask God to help me see where I am, where I'm not, and give me the courage to do something about it
- I need to make some course direction corrections, and I'm asking God to help me do this.
- I want to play in the New Hope volleyball league – sign-up online or at the table outside
- I will memorize Proverbs 7:22-23