

“LOOKING AHEAD”

Destinations, Part 2

February 14th, 2010

The Path Principle: Your direction, not your intentions, determines your destination

How Do You Know Which Path To Take Or Be On?

You only get to live each stage of life once; there is no time to waste

Proverbs 27:12 (NIV) “The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”

The “prudent” or wise person understands that life is connected, there is a relationship between yesterday, today, and tomorrow

The wise person asks, “In light of my past experience, my future hopes and dreams, what’s the wise thing for me to do?”

The “simple” or naïve person thinks today is about today and tomorrow is about tomorrow – they’re not connected

The wise see a problem and take appropriate action; the naïve keep going

The naïve person sees the problem & says, “Yeah, I should do something about it,” but doesn’t

The naïve think they can break the Principle of the Path – that you can be on a path and not arrive at the destination where that path leads

“Religious” people feel “convicted” & close to God, but leave church and do nothing

The wise may look foolish because they act like then is now – but they avoid pain

The simple keep going and suffer for it; they often blame God

There are points of no return, & there are points at which all of your options are bad

You don’t break principles, you just break yourself against them

You are where your path led; it may not have been your intention, but direction determines destination

Two most important areas affected by this principle - Relationships & finances

Never evaluate a relationship on where it is but where it’s headed

In finances you must understand “the borrower becomes the lender’s slave” – Prov. 22:7

If You Get Serious About This – Four Dynamics That Go With This Principle

1. A ction _____ - you have to do something
2. S acrifice _____ - you have to give something up
3. E mbarrassment _____ - your friends won't understand the decision(s) you are making
4. R elief _____ - that is what you will have in the future

It's much easier to just keep going on the path you are currently on & one day suffer harm

The "Principle of the Path" Prayer

"Heavenly Father, help me (us) to see trouble coming long before it gets here. Then give me (us) the wisdom to know what to do and the courage to do it."

Are you on a path you need to get off of? If you keep going on that path, you will suffer harm

Your heavenly Father loves you and has put enough warnings in the middle of the road that say "danger is coming," and now it's up to you to do something about it

My Next Step Today Is:

- I will begin to regularly pray the prayer based off Proverbs 27:12
- I am on a path I need to get off of. I am taking the appropriate steps to get off that path.
- I will memorize Proverbs 27:12
- I want to play in the New Hope volleyball league; deadline to sign-up is **TODAY!**
- I want to attend the "Meet the Pastor's" lunch on Sun, Feb 28th