

THE CHOICE BETWEEN LIFE & RUIN

Proverbs 10:6-7, 16 and many more

"Sanctify them
by the Truth.
Your Word is Truth"
John 17:17

- I. Introduction
- II. Following the path of righteousness will keep you safe in the long run, while following the path of wickedness will ruin you.
 - A. Integrity produces honor, steadiness, and continuing blessings and wickedness does the opposite. 10:6–7, 29–30; 12:2, 3, 5–8
 - Proverbs 10:6-7 (NKJV) ⁶ Blessings *are* on the head of the righteous, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked. ⁷ The memory of the righteous *is* blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.
 - Proverbs 10:29-30 (NKJV) ²⁹ The way of the LORD *is* strength for the upright, But destruction *will come* to the workers of iniquity.
³⁰ The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.
 - Proverbs 12:2 (NKJV) ² A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.
 - Proverbs 12:3 (NKJV) ³ A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.
 - Proverbs 12:5-8 (NKJV) ⁵ The thoughts of the righteous *are* right, *But* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceitful.
⁶ The words of the wicked *are*, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.
⁷ The wicked are overthrown and *are* no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.
⁸ A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.
 - B. Righteousness changes how we deal with things like finances, wants, and daily choices. 10:16, 28; 11:5–6, 23; 13:25
 - Proverbs 10:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ The labor of the righteous *leads* to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.
 - Proverbs 10:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.
 - Proverbs 11:5 (NKJV) ⁵ The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.
 - Proverbs 11:6 (NKJV) ⁶ The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.
 - Proverbs 11:23 (NKJV) ²³ The desire of the righteous is only good, But the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
 - Proverbs 13:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.
 - C. Godly living delivers us from unnecessary trouble and provides a hopeful future. 11:7–9, 18–20; 12:21, 28; 15:9
 - Proverbs 11:7 (NKJV) ⁷ When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.
 - Proverbs 11:8 (NKJV) ⁸ The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.
 - Proverbs 11:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.
 - Proverbs 11:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.
 - Proverbs 11:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.
 - Proverbs 11:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.
 - Proverbs 12:21 (NKJV) ²¹ No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.
 - Proverbs 12:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.
 - Proverbs 15:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness.
 - D. Hard work and ethical behavior produce reliable, satisfying fruit in our lives, not the short lived fruit of evil. 12:12; 13:9, 21; 15:6
 - Proverbs 12:12 (NKJV) ¹² The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.
 - Proverbs 13:9 (NKJV) ⁹ The light of the righteous rejoices, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

- Proverbs 13:21 (NKJV) ²¹Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.
- Proverbs 15:6 (NKJV) ⁶In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.
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- E. Living a faithful life leaves a legacy for future generations and outlasts the opposition of evil. 14:11, 19; 20:7; 21:18; 24:15–16; 29:27
 - Proverbs 14:11 (NKJV) ¹¹The house of the wicked will be overthrown, But the tent of the upright will flourish.
 - Proverbs 14:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹The evil will bow before the good, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
 - Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV) ⁷The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.
 - Proverbs 21:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, And the unfaithful for the upright.
 - Proverbs 24:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; ¹⁶For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.
 - Proverbs 29:27 (NKJV) ²⁷An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, And he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.
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- III. The moral choices of a people directly determine the fate of their society.
 - A. A city prospers and celebrates when righteous citizens flourish as righteous people also lead them. 11:10; 14:34
 - Proverbs 11:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.
 - Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV) ³⁴Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.
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 - B. Immoral leadership brings public fear, while godly authority brings public joy. 28:12, 28; 29:2
 - Proverbs 28:12 (NKJV) ¹²When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.
 - Proverbs 28:28 (NKJV) ²⁸When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase.
 - Proverbs 29:2 (NKJV) ²When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.
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 - C. Though sin spreads under wicked rule, God's people can rest in the ultimate downfall of evil. 29:16
 - Proverbs 29:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will see their fall.
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- IV. Conclusion

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. Light vs. Darkness (Proverbs 13:9): We discussed how righteousness brings lasting light and joy, while wickedness leads to dark, heavy seasons. In what ways have you experienced "light" and vitality in your own life when choosing to walk in integrity?
2. Hidden Wealth & Unseen Blessings (Proverbs 15:6): Solomon reminds us that a humble home filled with God's presence holds far more treasure than a palace full of strife. How can we shift our mindset away from measuring "success" by material wealth to recognizing God's true treasures?
3. Short-Term Gains vs. Long-Term Destinies (Proverbs 14:11 & 14:19): It often looks like evil people flourish while godly people live modestly or face unfair treatment. When you feel discouraged by the apparent success of ungodly paths, what truths help you stay focused on God's ultimate promise?
4. Leaving a Faithful Legacy (Proverbs 20:7): A righteous life creates a "win-win legacy" that blesses the next generation. Whether for physical children, family, or spiritual mentees, what is one concrete way you can model consistent integrity this week?
5. The Ripple Effect of Moral Leadership (Proverbs 28:12, 28:28, 29:2): When righteous people lead, communities rejoice; when corrupt people lead, people suffer. How can we, as believers, actively bring light, encouragement, and stability to our local communities, workplaces, or families?
6. The Power of Repentance (Proverbs 29:16): We saw that even a hardened "fool" can turn around the moment they call out to God in repentance. Why is it sometimes hard to believe that God's grace is immediately available to *anyone*, and how should that reality shape how we pray for others?