

Pondering the Path of Life

Prov. 5:5-6 (of the “strange woman”) – “ Her feet go down to death, her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.”

Other translations interpret it as referring to her (that she does not ponder the path of life, that she is in a wandering way and does not know the path of life).

Pondering the Path of Life

Most people live very shallow lives. They go from day to day and year to year with no deeper thoughts than making the next paycheck, buying the next beer, getting the next job, paying the next bill. Then they come to the end of life and realize that they are unprepared for eternity. Their eternal state and spiritual condition were maybe in the backs of their minds, but either for busyness or avoidance (“If I ignore it, maybe it will go away.”), they have neglected it.

What are the big questions of life? What do you think about when you “consider the heavens”? (Ps. 8:3-4)

- Is there a God?
- Were we created or did we just evolve?
- Why do we have a conscience, and why do we feel guilty?
- Is morality (right and wrong) actually real, or is everything just relative? If something is wrong, is it wrong for everybody?
- What are the standards of ethical behaviour, and where did they come from?
- Is there an afterlife? What will happen to me when I die?
- Who is Jesus?
- What is the purpose of life? Of my life? What does God expect or demand of me?

We need to think on these things, but are too easily distracted by the “next channel” (like TV or radio – an unending and constantly changing parade of things that command our attention).

The Wandering and Moveable ways

The temptress in Prov. 5-7 is undoubtedly sexual, but we can generalize beyond that. The temptress in your life can be anything that so distracts you from God and spiritual truth that you lose your way. You lose sight of the path of life, and can spend not only months, but years and decades in spiritual darkness, not even thinking about God, or your spiritual standing with him.

The “moveable ways” can refer to various self-justifications –

- “Everybody does it, so it must not be too bad.”
- “Just this once will be OK.”
- “Nobody would ever know. It’s OK if you don’t get caught”
- “How can it be wrong if it feels so right?”
- “He shows me more love than my husband does, so ...”
- “I will repent later.”
- “Drugs make me happy.”
- “It’s not my fault I’ve been married four times – they just weren’t the right person for me.”
- “I can make a lot of money if I ...”

Or they can refer to the “slippery slope” of changes that have been taking place in our culture:

- Profanity
- The sexual revolution, promiscuity, licentiousness
- Homosexuality (goes from public admission, to pride, to demand for acceptance, to demand for celebration, to accusations of bigotry in any opposition, to legal prosecutions)
- Confusion even over whether you are a male or a female

- Abortion
- Divorce and remarriage
- The rise of openly socialistic politicians and concepts
- Provocative dress
- Mutilation of the body (tattoos, piercings, scarification, cuttings, etc.)
- Wacko movements like feminism, eco-terror, veganism, PETA, ...

My life has been characterized by various stages and types of “enthusiasms” – horses, soccer, learning Hebrew and Greek, computer programming, banjo, viola, woodworking, antique tools, firearms, reloading ammunition, etc. These have taken up a lot of my thoughts and energy and yet I recognize that most of them have no eternal consequence – they are merely worldly interests. That is, their interest and value is mainly in this life, not the eternal. My real values are of Christ and his Word, the things that will endure – things that are eternal.

No matter how much I have enjoyed or do enjoy things or activities in this life, I could walk away from them without changing who I really am. Ask yourself who you really are, and what makes you you. Do you have your identity merely in family or job or hobbies or pleasures of this life?

Ps. 90:12 – “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.”

We should ponder the path of life because God is pondering our goings

Prov. 5:21 – “For the ways of man are before the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.”

God knows everything we do and think, and we will be judged accordingly. 2 Cor. 5:10