

Proverbs 11:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil
pursueth it to his own death.

Analysis

As righteousness tends to life, so he that pursues evil pursues it to his own death. This verse presents two trajectories - righteousness toward life, evil toward death. Each path leads inexorably to its destination. Pursuing evil isn't neutral activity with risky outcomes but active pursuit of one's own death. The verse exposes the suicidal nature of sin - evil doesn't merely risk death but actively pursues it.

Historical Context

Continues covenant theology's life-death binary. Deuteronomy presents this choice starkly - obedience brings life, rebellion brings death (Deut 30:15-20). All of life involves choosing between these paths.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What trajectory is your life currently on - toward life or toward death?
2. How is pursuing particular sins actively pursuing your own destruction?

