

# 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?

## Interlinear Text

---

כִּי וְמִרְדֵּךְ הַצְדָּקָה לְמִנְיָם רְשָׁעָה

H3651 As righteousness H6666 tendeth to life

H2416 so he that pursueth

רְשָׁעָה וְמִרְדֵּךְ הַצְדָּקָה

H7291 evil

H7451

לְמוֹתוֹן:

pursueth it to his own death

H4194

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Proverbs 10:16** (Righteousness): The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.

**Proverbs 19:23** (Evil): The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

**Proverbs 12:28** (Righteousness): In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

**Proverbs 8:36** (Parallel theme): But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

**Acts 10:35** (Righteousness): But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

**Proverbs 11:4** (Righteousness): Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

**1 John 3:10** (Righteousness): In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

**1 John 3:7** (Righteousness): Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

**Romans 6:23** (Parallel theme): For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

