

Proverbs 12:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Analysis

Righteousness leads to life, its pathway avoids death. This ultimate contrast shows all choices are fundamentally spiritual, leading toward or away from God. The righteousness that saves is Christ's imputed righteousness, while the righteousness here refers to sanctified living that flows from regeneration.

Historical Context

The way of life versus death was covenant choice given to Israel (Deuteronomy 30:19). Individual paths of righteousness or wickedness determined one's participation in covenant blessings or curses.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do your daily choices reflect walking in the way of life versus death?
2. What righteousness do you pursue: your own or Christ's imputed righteousness?

Interlinear Text

בְּאֵרַח	צְדָקָה	חַיִּים	וְדָרְךָ	נְתִיבָה	אֵל
In the way	of righteousness	is life	H1870	and in the pathway	H408
H734	H6666	H2416		H5410	
מָוֶת:					
thereof there is no death					
H4194					

Additional Cross-References

3 John 1:11 (Parallel theme): Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Romans 5:21 (Righteousness): That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proverbs 11:19 (Righteousness): As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.

Proverbs 8:35 (Parallel theme): For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

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

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

1 John 2:29 (Righteousness): If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Deuteronomy 30:15 (Parallel theme): See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

Ezekiel 18:9 (Righteousness): Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.

