

Proverbs 16:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Analysis

There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. This critical verse (repeated at 14:12) warns that subjective certainty doesn't guarantee truth. Autonomous human reason, unaided by revelation, confidently walks toward death despite subjective assurance of rightness. The verse refutes both moral relativism ('seems right to me') and rationalistic confidence in unaided human reason. Only God's Word reliably guides to life.

Historical Context

Echoes Genesis 3 where the tree 'seemed good' yet brought death. Human moral intuitions, corrupted by fall, confidently pursue destruction. Only divine revelation corrects fallen reason.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What currently seems right to you that might actually lead to death?
2. How do you subject your moral intuitions to Scripture's authority?

Interlinear Text

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|----------|---------|--------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| יֵשׁ | דֶּרֶךְ | יָשָׁר | לִפְנֵי | אִישׁ | אֶחָד־הֵם | דֶּרֶךְ |
| There is | a way | right | that seemeth | unto a man | but the end | a way |
| H3426 | H1870 | H3477 | H6440 | H376 | H319 | H1870 |
| מָוֶת: | | | | | | |
| of death | | | | | | |
| H4194 | | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:12 (Parallel theme): There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 12:15 (Parallel theme): The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 12:26 (Parallel theme): The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

2 Corinthians 13:5 (Parallel theme): Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

John 9:40 (Parallel theme): And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

Acts 26:9 (Parallel theme): I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.