

Proverbs 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

Analysis

The result of wisdom: walking in the way of good men and keeping paths of the righteous. Wisdom produces righteous conduct and association with godly community. The verse presents ethical behavior as both individual character and communal participation. Good men's ways are worth imitating; righteous paths are worth maintaining. This balance between individual responsibility and communal influence characterizes biblical ethics.

Historical Context

Reflects covenant community structure where righteous example and communal accountability supported faithfulness. Walking in righteousness was both personal decision and participation in community of faith.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Who are the 'good men' whose ways you're currently following?

2. How does your conduct demonstrate that you're keeping the paths of the righteous?

Interlinear Text

צַדִּיקִים יְמֵן לְמַעַן תְּלַגֵּן כְּרֵךְ בְּדֵךְ יְמֵן טֹבָם וְתִּאְרֵךְ וְתִּמְצֵא

H4616 H1980 in the way of good the paths of the righteous

H1870 H2896 H734 H6662

תְּשִׁמְרָה:

men and keep

H8104

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:12 (Parallel theme): That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Psalms 119:115 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Proverbs 13:20 (Parallel theme): He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Jeremiah 6:16 (Good): Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

3 John 1:11 (Good): 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.