

# Proverbs 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

## Analysis

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Wisdom's ways are pleasant and peaceful. The Hebrew 'noam' (pleasant/sweet) and 'shalom' (peace) describe experiential quality of walking in wisdom. This isn't mere moralism ('obedience is hard but necessary') but eudaimonism ('obedience produces flourishing'). God's commands aren't burdensome (1 John 5:3); His paths lead to joy. This challenges both legalistic religion (joyless rule-keeping) and antinomian license (pursuing pleasure apart from obedience). True pleasure is found in God's ways.

## Historical Context

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Unlike pagan religions requiring harsh asceticism or costly appeasement, Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh was described as delight (Psalm 1:2, 119:47). The yoke of Torah was liberating, not oppressive - until Pharisaical additions made it burdensome. Jesus restored the original vision: 'My yoke is easy, and my burden is light' (Matthew 11:30).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. Do you experience God's commands as pleasant or burdensome, and what does your answer reveal?
2. What false ideas about Christianity make it seem joyless and restrictive rather than pleasant and peaceful?
3. How can you cultivate delight in obedience rather than merely dutiful compliance?

## Interlinear Text

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דִּרְכֵי	דִּרְכֵי	נָעִם	וְכָל	נֶת יְבוֹתָ יְהוָה	שְׁלוֹמִים:
Her ways	Her ways	of pleasantness	H3605	and all her paths	are peace
H1870	H1870	H5278		H5410	H7965

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 1:79** (Peace): To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Proverbs 2:10** (Parallel theme): When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

**Isaiah 26:3** (Peace): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

**Psalms 119:165** (Peace): Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

**Psalms 119:14** (Parallel theme): I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

**Psalms 112:1** (Parallel theme): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

**Proverbs 22:18** (Parallel theme): For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

**Isaiah 57:19** (Peace): I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

**Psalms 119:174** (Parallel theme): I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

**Psalms 119:103** (Parallel theme): How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

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