

Proverbs 4:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Analysis

Don't turn right or left; remove your foot from evil. The Hebrew 'natah' (turn aside) and 'suwr' (remove/depart) command straight forward progression in righteousness. Wandering right or left leads away from God's path. This verse demands focused directness - not exploring alternative routes but steadily pursuing the right way. Moral clarity requires resisting distractions, however appealing they may seem.

Historical Context

Deuteronomy 5:32-33 commanded Israel: 'Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you.' Faithfulness meant unwavering adherence to covenant stipulations despite surrounding nations' alternative paths.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What 'right' or 'left' diversions tempt you away from straightforward obedience?
2. How can you maintain focused progress toward righteousness amid competing options?
3. What does 'removing your foot from evil' require practically in your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

אַל	תַּעֲשֵׂה	אַתְּ	אַל	וְשָׁמַעַת	אֹלֶךָ	רְמַכֵּז	תַּסְמַכֵּן	בְּגַלְגָּלֶת	מִשְׁעָן:
H408	Turn	not to the right hand	H3225	nor to the left	H8040	remove	thy foot	H7272	from evil
	H5186					H5493		H7451	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 5:32 (Parallel theme): Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Joshua 1:7 (Parallel theme): Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

Proverbs 16:17 (Evil): The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Isaiah 1:16 (Evil): Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Romans 12:9 (Evil): Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

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