

<sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

# Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

# Proverbs 9:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.



# Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV) O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.



# John 14:6 (NKJV)

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.



# Matthew 7:13–14 (NKJV)

13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

## Limitation of Human Vision



- The need for direction & instruction when traveling to a place we have never been.
- It is not within mans ability to "direct his own steps" through this life! (Jer. 10:23)
- None of us know what is around the next curve or or over the next hill! (James 4:13-17)



- There are but two ways, & only one leads to eternal life! (Mat 7:13,14; Jer. 6:16; Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12; Heb 5:8.9)
- Any & every other way leads to eternal death (Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:13,14; 15:7-9; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 Thes 1:7-9)
  - The road we choose will have both temporal & eternal consequences! (Deut 30:11-20; Jer 6:16; Eze. 18:20-32; Mat 7:13,14; Acts 4:12)

### Depends Which Road You Are On!

- Place your hope and confidence fully in God (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:17,18)
  - Your own understanding will not lead you to true happiness, peace & life!

     (Prov 14:12; 28:26;
    Jer. 10:23; Rom 12:16; 1
    Cor 4:6; 8:2)

#### Depends Which Road You Are On!

- God's ways are far above our ways! (Isa. 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-34; Rom 10:6-8)
  - Therefore we should ALWAYS focus on God and His will in every aspect of our life (Mat 6:33; Col. 3:17)

#### God's Way Is The Way of Blessedness

#### Prov 3:1-12 (Qualities)

- **▶** Loyalty 3:1,2
- ▶ Love & Integrity 3:3,4
- $\triangleright$  Faith -3:5,6
- ▶ Humility 3:7,8
- $\triangleright$  Selflessness -3:9,10
- ▶ Meekness 3:11,12

#### Prov 3:13-18 (Blessings)

- ▶ Happiness 3:13
- ▶ True Wealth 3:14,15
- ▶ Length of Days 3:16
- ▶ Pleasantness 3:17
- ▶ Peace 3:17
- ▶Life 3:18

#### God's Way Is The Way of Blessedness

#### Prov 3:21-26 (Peace & Hope Regardless of Circumstances)

<sup>21</sup> My son, let them not depart from your eyes-- Keep sound wisdom and discretion; <sup>22</sup> So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. <sup>23</sup> Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. <sup>24</sup> When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. <sup>25</sup> Do not be afraid of sudden terror. Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; <sup>26</sup> For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

### For Our Young Men & Women?

- May face more difficult challenges than my generation -
- Lay the foundation of your life upon God's word and build upon it using God's word as your guide— (Eccl 11:9-12:7; Prov 1-3)
- Put God first above career, friends, activities, family, etc.

## In Our Marriages?

- Lay the foundation of your marriage upon God's word and build upon it using God's word as your guide— (Gen 2:18-24; Mal. 2:14; Mat. 5:31,32; 19:3-9; 1 Cor 7:1-11; Eph 5:22-33; Col. 3:18,19; 1 Pet 3:1-7)
- Put spouse above career, friends, activities, family, etc.
- Remember vows! (Ec 5:4)

## In Our Marriages?

# Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV) <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

#### Problems will come!

- Job loss / Financial Problems?
- Sickness / Aging / Changes in Appearance . . .
- The way we 'FEEL' towards our spouse . . .
- Arguments, Disagreements
  / Neglect or Mistreatment

## In Our Marriages?

- "I take thee to be my wedded husband/wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, . . ."
- The commitment & love you are to have towards your spouse is NOT dependent upon your spouse!

#### For Our Children?

- Our society today is full of children who receive little to no guidance from their parents
- The importance of teaching them Gods word (Deut 6:1-25; Judges 2:10; Prov. 22:6)
- Discipline (teaching / training / correcting) & example (Eph 6:4; Prov 4:1-4; 19:18; 22:15; 23:13,14; 29:15,17; 2 Tim 1:5; 3:15)
- Parents have a lot to do with the direction their children choose!

#### For The Church? For Local churches of Christ?



- For the church of Christ? Ridicule? Persecution? Heaven!
- For local churches? Shrinking or growth? / Death or vibrance? / Apostasy or faithfulness?
- Depends on the faithfulness of members to God's word -
  - Demand it be preached & followed (2 Tim 4:2; 2 Ths 3:6)
  - Demand nothing be done for which there is no Biblical authority (Col. 3:17)

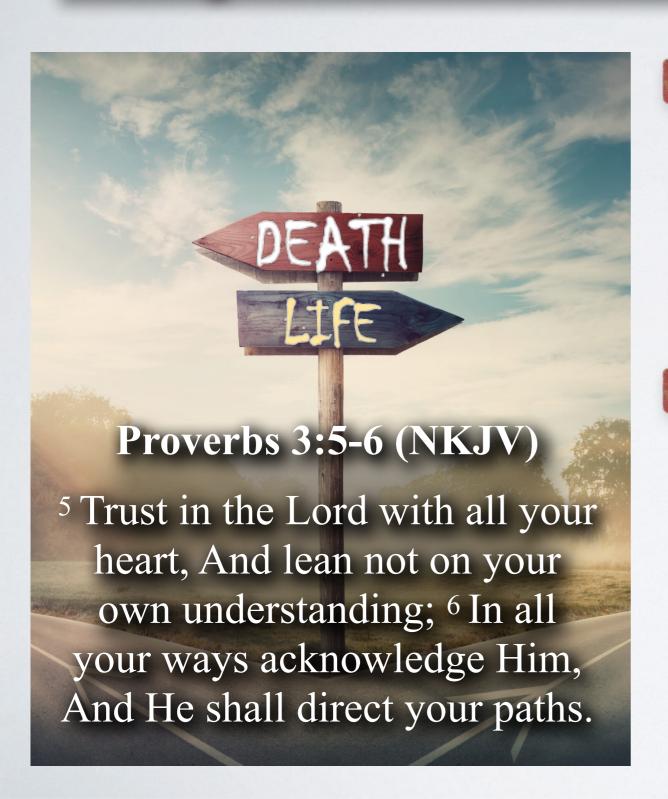
#### For The Church? For Local churches of Christ?



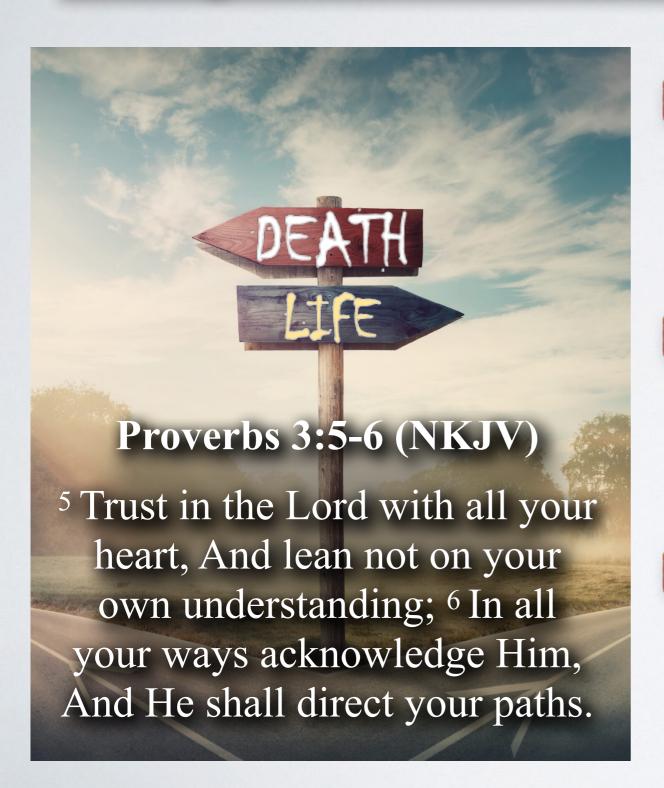
- Apostasy is very difficult to recognize in its early stages, (begins with a change of attitude towards the need for authority)
- When a congregation begins to move away from God's word it is very difficult to stop.
- To practice one unauthorized work will lead to more and more unauthorized actions -
- The line must be drawn where divine authority ends (Dt 4:2)!



- There are but two ways, & only one leads to eternal life! Mat 7:13,14; Acts 4:12; Jer. 6:16; Jn 14:6; Heb 5:8.9
- Any & every other way leads to eternal death Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:13,14; 15:7-9; 2 Thes 1:7-9
- The road we choose will have both temporal & eternal consequences! Deut 30:11-20; Jer 6:16; Eze. 18:20-32; Mat 7:13,14; Acts 4:12;



- Place your hope and confidence fully in God (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:17,18)
  - Your own understanding will not lead you to true happiness, peace & life! (Prov 14:12; 28:26; Jer. 10:23; Rom 12:16; 1 Cor 4:6; 8:2)



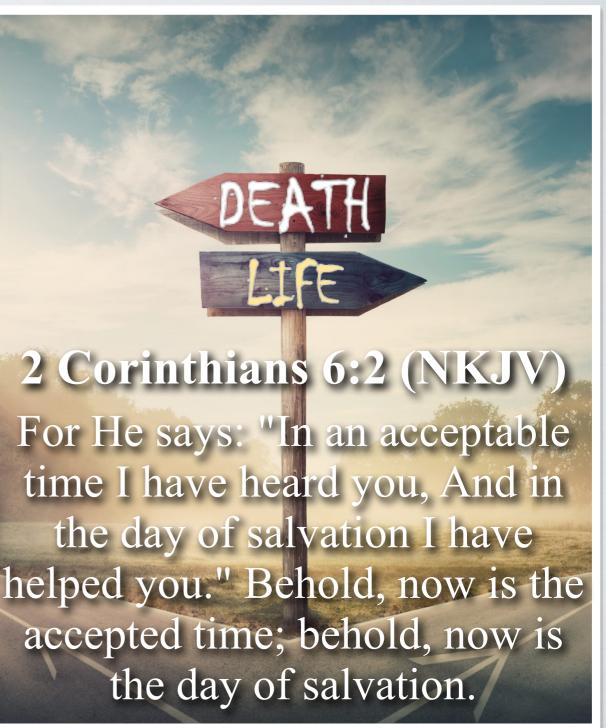
- Are you following Jesus by following His teaching? or are you NOT?
- If you are, I pray that you will continue your labor will not be in vain -
- If you are not I pray that you will enter the straight & narrow way today!!

#### ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S WAY

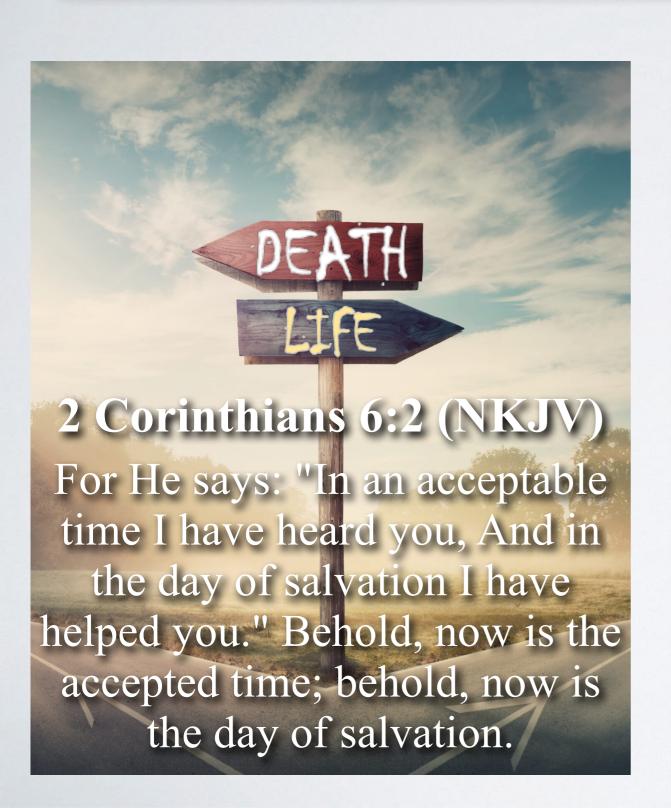


## ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S WAY





### ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S WAY





#### A Hundred Years From Now

A Hundred Years From Now, Tell me, friend, what will it matter,

Say, a hundred years from now, If you owned ten thousand acres, Or just one old broken plough,

If you bought your suits in Paris, And your shoes in Italy, Or your clothes were made in patches, Like the bed quilts used to be?

But there's more to life than livin', More for those who will believe., More store laid up in Heaven, If the Saviour we receive.

Whether we are lost forever, Or to Jesus here we bow. This is what will make the difference, In a hundred years from now.





#### Charts by Don McClain

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http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/

#### Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, <sup>16</sup> in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. <sup>19</sup> I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup> that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."