

Series: Wisdom in an Age of Folly: Proverbs 1-9

Text: Proverbs 2:1-22

HI: There is a path to life through this world drenched in death.

Title: *The Big IF*

Hook: Rudyard Kipling

Date: 7/10/22

Purpose: To call the listener to respond to God's offer of new life.

FCF: Like the original readers, we are sensitive to what is required for relationship with God. As we view the commandments, we see that we fall short. God's grace meets us there, as he generously gives a path to life to those who respond to him.

COR: We know actions have consequences. We often realize this when it is too late. Behavior is linked with outcomes. Where do we find truth?

Christ Trajectory [CT*]: (2:4) // Treasure Matthew 6:19-21 + Matthew 13:44

Apologetic: In CCL, if you find what you are searching for, what will you have?

Form: Deductive

Outline:

I. If you seek the truth, you will find the gift of God. (1-8)

A. The door is open. (1-4)

B. The gift is given. (5-8)

II. In the Lord you are protected. (9-19)

A. The Lord's wisdom guards us. (9-11)

B. The Lord's path delivers us. (12-19)

III. In the Lord you dwell secure. (20-22)

A. The righteous obtain God's blessing. (20-21)

B. The wicked await God's judgment. (22)

Main Idea:

Subject: How can we find the path of life in a world of death?

Complement: Hear and respond to the wisdom of the Lord

Exegetical Idea: If we hear and respond to the wisdom of the Lord, then we will find the path of life in a world of death.

Theological Idea: The Lord pours out his wisdom into a world of darkness to light the path of life.

Homiletical Idea: There is a path to life through this world drenched in death.

Introduction:

Rudyard Kipling [pull PIC from online]

If you can keep your head when all about you
 Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
 If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
 But make allowance for their doubting too:
 If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
 Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
 Or being hated don't give way to hating,
 And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
 If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim,
 If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
 And treat those two impostors just the same:
 If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
 Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
 Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
 And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
 And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
 And lose, and start again at your beginnings
 And never breathe a word about your loss:
 If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
 To serve your turn long after they are gone,
 And so hold on when there is nothing in you
 Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
 Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
 If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
 If all men count with you, but none too much:
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,

Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
 And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

READ Proverbs 2:1-8

Proverbs 2:1

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you,
² making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;
³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding,
⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.
⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and
 understanding;
⁷ he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in
 integrity,
⁸ guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

I. If you seek the truth, you will find the gift of God. (1-8)

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to
 destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the
 way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. (Matt. 7:13-14)

READ Proverbs 2:9-19

⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path;
¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your
 soul;
¹¹ discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,
¹² delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech,
¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness,
¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil,
¹⁵ men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways.

¹⁶ So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words,
¹⁷ who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God;
¹⁸ for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed;
¹⁹ none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life.

II. In the Lord you are protected. (9-19)

Righteousness: What is right by God's standards.

Justice: quality to be free from bias and self-interest

Equity: quality to make judgments free from discrimination or dishonesty

READ Proverbs 2:20-22

²⁰ So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.
²¹ For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it,
²² but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it. Prov. 2:1-22

III. In the Lord you dwell secure. (20-22)

¹³ "And if you will indeed obey my commandments that I command you today, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴ he will give the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the later rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil. ¹⁵ And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full. ¹⁶ Take care lest your heart be deceived, and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; ¹⁷ then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be no rain, and the land will yield no fruit, and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving you. (Deut. 11:13-17)

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Conclusion:

¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,

²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:19-21

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Matt. 13:44

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