

Northside

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

The Right Path for 2018

January 7, 2018

Big Idea: Before you and I were created, God designed a Right Path for us to walk on every day of our lives. Healthy boundaries help us keep on that path.

Scriptures: *For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever. Psalms 16:10-11 NASB*

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires

of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17 ESV

We have the freedom to choose the path that we will walk this year

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart
And do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 NASB

*“If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today whom you will serve:** whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” The people*

answered and said, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for the Lord our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and who did these great signs in our sight and preserved us through all the way in which we went and among all the peoples through whose midst we passed. “The Lord drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites who lived in the land. We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God.” Joshua 24:15-18 | NASB

There will be tests along the way

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” Genesis 2:16-17 ESV

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is

not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17 ESV

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6:33 | ESV

Setting healthy boundaries will help us stay on the right path

God taught Adam to set boundaries to protect his family. Adam's two-fold job description was to provide for his family by producing, and to protect his family, by placing a fence, or boundary, around them. He was obviously aware of the devil's opposition by that time.

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it.** Genesis 2:15 ESV.*

Marriage, or healthy friendships, will help us keep on the right path

He gave to Adam extra protection because he knew, as a man, he was vulnerable to pride.

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Genesis 2:18 ESV

This was the first time God used the words "*not good*". He knew the future and he knew man's points of vulnerability. The word "*helper*" is worthy of study because it is one of the two primary responsibilities of women.

Note that the same word, "helper" is used to describe the work of the Holy Spirit. Obviously,

we're not looking at a soft, lowly, acquiescent position as helper. *So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6 ESV*

The same word is used in Paul's description of a storm on the Mediterranean Sea. The winds were blowing so hard that the frightened sailors had to cinch a wire around the ship to keep it from bursting apart. Picture a man under spiritual attack, and his wife holding him together, so he doesn't implode.

After hoisting it up, they used supports (same word as helper) to undergird the ship. Then, fearing that they would run aground on the Syrtis, they lowered the gear, and thus they were driven along. Acts 27:17



WEEK OF PRAYER

January 8-14
6:30-8:00pm