

And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty." 1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

NT Insights:

- **Ac 20:29** For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.
- **1 Co 15:33** Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
- **1 Jn 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
- **Php 2:12** Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure. **14** Do all things without complaining and disputing, **15** that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **16** holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

B. Romance (Proverbs 2:16-19)

Pr 2:16 To deliver you from the **immoral woman**, From the seductress *who* flatters with her words, **17** Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God. **18** For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; **19** None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life—

- Immoral: sinful
- **Implication:** The young man and his uncontrolled passion can lead to unbridled lust and pride, leading to moral failure and life failure.
- **Excerpt:** <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-301/four-marks-of-the-man-of-god> (John MacArthur)
 - **1 Ti 6:11** But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
 - The man of God is known by what he: (1) flees from, (2) follows after, (3) fights for, (4) faithful to.

Progression & Contrast: The Immoral Women & Excellent Women

Immoral Woman	The Godly Woman	Immoral Man
Seductress (foreign, wild, adulteress) <i>who</i> flatters (smooth, misleading, seducing) with her words	Pr 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue <i>is</i> the law of kindness.	<i>Speaks</i> perverse (immoral, corrupted) things
Forsakes (abandons) the companion (husband) of her youth	Pr 31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain.	<i>Leaves</i> (abandons) the paths of uprightness
Forgets (wipe out of memory, fall into oblivion) the covenant of her God	Pr 31:27 She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.	<i>Walk</i> (live) in the ways (path/conduct) of darkness
For her house <u>leads down</u> (sinks low) to death (dying in judgment)	Pr 31:15 She also rises while it is yet night, And provides food for her household, And a portion for her maidservants.	Rejoice (internal joy) in <i>doing evil</i>
And her paths (well-worn habits) to the dead (people in hell)	Pr 31:12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.	Delight(external joy) in the perversity of the wicked
None who go to her return (turn back)	Pr 31:20 She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.	Whose Ways (path/conduct) are crooked (twisted & false)
Nor do they regain (unable to reach) the paths of life	Pr 31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband <i>also</i> , and he praises her:	<i>Devious</i> (cunning, deceitful) in their paths
Is 3:16 Moreover the LORD says: "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, And walk with outstretched necks And wanton eyes, Walking and mincing <i>as</i> they go, Making a jingling with their feet, 17 Therefore the Lord will strike with a scab The crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, And the LORD will uncover their secret parts." 18 In that day the Lord will take away the finery: The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; 19 The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; 20 The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; The perfume boxes, the charms, 21 and the rings; The nose jewels, 22 the festal apparel, and the mantles; The outer garments, the purses, 23 and the mirrors; The fine linen, the turbans, and the robes. 24 And so it shall be: Instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench; Instead of a sash, a rope; Instead of well-set hair, baldness; Instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth; And branding instead of beauty.		

NT Insights Regarding the Godly Woman:

- **1 Pe 3:3** Do not let your adornment be *merely* outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on *fine* apparel—**4** rather *let it be* the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible *beauty* of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.
- **1 Ti 2:8** I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting; **9** in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, **10** but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.

VII. Life or Death! Blessing or Cursing!

Pr 2:20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep *to* the paths of righteousness. **21** For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; **22** But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

Flashback: Before Moses Dies - Dt 30:15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, **16** 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. **17** But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, **18** 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. **19** 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; **20** 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."

Summary: Great Contrast & Promise

- **Walk:** live
 - **Way of goodness:** journey of beautiful and abundant joy
- **Keep:** cling in custody, revere, remain
 - Paths of righteousness: route of godly living
- **Promise:** Dwell (settle) in the land & remain (escape, preserve, prosper)
 - **Upright** (live straight and not crooked) & **Blameless** (sincere, honest)

- **Promise:**

- Will be cut off (die)
 - **From the earth:** (territory, land) not dwell in the land of the living
- **Will be uprooted:** torn down and struck down in judgment
 - **from it:** repeat the idea - the land of the living
- Wicked (guilty, unbeliever) & Unfaithful (faithless, betrayer, spiritual adultery)
 - **Note:** Possible allusion to the Millennial Kingdom

Practical:

Step 1: Befriend wisdom

Step 2: Beware the way of the world

Step 3: Brave the path of righteousness

Conclusion: The Father loves his son and knows the pitfalls that could ruin his life and therefore, lovingly warns to persevere in God's wisdom.

Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: **37** *"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."* **39** But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Heb 12:1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jas 1:12 Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Pe 4:14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed *are you*, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

Question: What path are you on? Are you considering exiting the path?