What Is Down The Road For Me?

Intro:

A. Returning from Aubrey’s graduation - I was thinking about some of the things that the guest speakers had each talked about and that was what the future held for the graduates and how to achieve success.

1. The Proverbs writer makes this connection for us spiritually - Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

2. Proverbs 27:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; The simple pass on and are punished.

B. There is very clearly - “Limitations to man’s/humans sight…”

1. The need for direction & instruction when traveling to a place we have never been.

2. It is not within mans ability to “direct his own steps” through this life! - Jer. 10:23 (NKJV)---- 23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

3. None of us know what is around the next curve or hill! - James 4:13-17 (NKJV) ---- 13 Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.” 16 But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. 17 Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.

C. And what is down the road for us - clearly depends on “What road you are on…”

1. There are but two ways, & only one leads to eternal life! - Mat 7:13,14; Jer. 6:16; Jn 14:6; Heb 5:8,9

   a. 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.

   b. Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV) ---- 16 Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

   c. John 14:6 (NKJV) ---- 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

   d. Hebrews 5:8-9 (NKJV) ---- 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

2. Any & every other way leads to eternal death- Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:13,14; 15:7-9; 2 Thes 1:7-9

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

   b. Matthew 15:7-9 (NKJV) ---- 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ”

   c. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (NKJV) ---- 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
3. 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

a. Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NKJV) ---- 11 “For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. 12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ 14 But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. 15 “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, 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.”

b. Ezekiel 18:20-32 (NKJV) ---- 20 The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. 21 “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 22 None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. 23 Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “and not that he should turn from his ways and live? 24 “But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 25 Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair? 30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

c. Acts 4:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

D. Let us consider this concept in more detail.
II. WHICH ROAD ARE YOU ON! - Prov 3:5-6 (NKJV) ---- 5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.
A. Place your hope and confidence fully in God - (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:17,18)
   1. Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) ---- 19 “God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
   2. Titus 1:2 (NKJV) ---- 2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,
   3. Hebrews 6:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,
   4. Hebrews 6:18 (NKJV) ---- 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.
B. 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)
   1. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV) ---- 12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
   2. Proverbs 28:26 (NKJV) ---- 26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered.
   3. Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV) ---- 23 O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.
      a. Romans 12:16 (NKJV) ---- 16 Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.
      b. 1 Corinthians 4:6 (NKJV) ---- 6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us not to think beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other.
      c. 1 Corinthians 8:2 (NKJV) ---- 2 And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.
C. God’s ways are far above our ways! (Isa. 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-34; Rom 10:6-8)
   1. Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV) ---- 8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.
   2. Romans 11:33-34 (NKJV) ---- 33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?”
   3. Romans 10:6-8 (NKJV) ---- 6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down from above) 7 or, “‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):
D. Therefore we should ALWAYS focus on God and His will in every aspect of our life—(Mat 6:33; Col. 3:17)
   1. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV) ---- 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
   2. Colossians 3:17 (NKJV) ---- 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
E. God’s Way Is The Way of Blessedness
1. **Prov 3:1-12** (Qualities) ---- 1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man. 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine. 11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, Just as a father the son in whom he delights.

   a. Loyalty – 3:1,2
   b. Love & Integrity – 3:3,4
   c. Faith – 3:5,6
   d. Humility – 3:7,8
   e. Selflessness – 3:9,10
   f. Meekness – 3:11,12

2. **Prov 3:13-18** (Blessings)

   a. Happiness – 3:13
   b. True Wealth – 3:14,15
   c. Length of Days – 3:16
   d. Pleasantness – 3:17
   e. Peace – 3:17
   f. Life – 3:18

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

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

III. **As we consider these principals - let’s look at how this affects**

   A. Our Young Men and Ladies:

   1. **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)*

   a. **Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:7** (NKJV) ---- 9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. 1 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”: 2 While the sun and the light, The moon and the stars, Are not darkened, And the clouds do not return after the rain; 3 In the day when the keepers of the house tremble, And the strong men bow down; When the grinders cease because they are few, And those that look through the windows grow dim; 4 When the doors are shut in the streets, And the sound of grinding is low; When one rises up at the sound of a bird, And all the daughters of music are brought low. 5 Also they are afraid of height, And
of terrors in the way; When the almond tree blossoms, The grasshopper is a burden, And desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, And the mourners go about the streets. 6 Remember your Creator before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. 7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

2. Put God first - above career, friends, activities, family, etc.

B. In Our Marriages:
   1. 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)
      a. Genesis 2:18-24 (NKJV) ---- 18 And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. 21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.” 24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
      b. Malachi 2:14 (NKJV) ---- 14 Yet you say, “For what reason?” Because the Lord has been witness Between you and the wife of your youth, With whom you have dealt treacherously; Yet she is your companion And your wife by covenant.
      c. Matthew 5:31 (NKJV) ---- 31 “Furthermore it has been said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’
         (1) Matthew 5:32 (NKJV) ---- 32 But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.
      d. Matthew 19:3-9 (NKJV) ---- 3 The Pharisees also came to Him, testing Him, and saying to Him, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for just any reason?” 4 And He answered and said to them, “Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ 5 and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? 6 So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” 7 They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” 8 He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
      e. 1 Corinthians 7:1-11 (NKJV) ---- 1 Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again
so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. 6 But I say this as a concession, not as a commandment. 7 For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that. 8 But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: It is good for them if they remain even as I am; 9 but if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 10 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.

f. **Ephesians 5:22-33 (NKJV)** ---- 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

g. **Colossians 3:18 (NKJV)** ---- 18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. (1) **Colossians 3:19 (NKJV)** ---- 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

h. **1 Peter 3:1-7 (NKJV)** ---- 1 Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. 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. 5 For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror. 7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.

2. Put spouse above career, friends, activities, family, etc.
3. **Remember your vows! (Ecclesiastes 5:4) (NKJV)** ---- 4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed
   a. Problems will come! Job loss / Financial Problems? Sickness / Aging / Changes in Appearance . . .
   b. The way we ‘FEEL’ towards our spouse . . . Arguments, Disagreements / Neglect or Mistreatment
   c. "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, . . ."
   d. The commitment & love you are to have towards your spouse is NOT dependent upon your spouse!
C. When it comes to our Children:

1. Our society today is full of children who receive little to no guidance from their parents -

2. The importance of teaching them God's word - (Deut 6:1-25; Judges 2:10; Prov. 22:6)

   a. Deuteronomy 6:1-25 (NKJV) ----

      "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. 3 Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you— ‘a land flowing with milk and honey.’

      4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. 10 “So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, 11 houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant— when you have eaten and are full— 12 then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. 13 You shall fear the Lord your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. 14 You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you 15 (for the Lord your God is a jealous God among you), lest the anger of the Lord your God be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth. 16 “You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah. 17 You shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, His testimonies, and His statutes which He has commanded you. 18 And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the Lord has spoken.

      19 "When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies, the statutes, and the judgments which the Lord our God has commanded you?’ 21 then you shall say to your son: ‘We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand; 22 and the Lord showed signs and wonders before our eyes, great and severe, against Egypt, Pharaoh, and all his household. 23 Then He brought us out from there, that He might bring us in, to give us the land of which He swore to our fathers. 24 And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. 25 Then it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to observe all these commandments before the Lord our God, as He has commanded us.’

b. Judges 2:10 (NKJV) ----

      10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

c. Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV) ----

      6 Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

3. 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)
a. **Ephesians 6:4** (NKJV) ---- 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

b. **Proverbs 4:1-4** (NKJV) ---- 1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. 3 When I was my father’s son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me: “Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

c. **Proverbs 19:18** (NKJV) ---- 18 Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.

d. **Proverbs 22:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

e. **Proverbs 23:13** (NKJV) ---- 13 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

f. **Proverbs 23:14** (NKJV) ---- 14 You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

g. **Proverbs 29:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 The rod and reprove give wisdom, But a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

h. **Proverbs 29:17** (NKJV) ---- 17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; Yes, he will give delight to your soul.

i. **2 Timothy 1:5** (NKJV) ---- 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

j. **2 Timothy 3:15** (NKJV) ---- 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

4. Parents have a lot to do with the direction their children choose!

D. As we look at the church / the local congregation:

1. For the church of Christ? - Ridicule? Persecution? Heaven!

2. For local churches? Shrinking or growth? / Death or vibrance? / Apostasy or faithfulness?

3. Depends on the faithfulness of members to God’s word -

   a. Demand it be preached & followed - (**2 Tim 4:2; 2 Thess 3:6**)
      
      (1) **2 Timothy 4:2** (NKJV) ---- 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

      (2) **2 Thessalonians 3:6** (NKJV) ---- 6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

   b. Demand nothing be done for which there is no Biblical authority - (**Col. 3:17** - NKJV) ---- 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

4. Apostasy is very difficult to recognize in its early stages, (begins with a change of attitude towards the need for authority)

   a. When a congregation begins to move away from God’s word it is very difficult to stop.

   b. To practice one unauthorized work will lead to more and more unauthorized actions -

   c. The line must be drawn where divine authority ends - **Deut 4:2**! (NKJV) ---- 2 You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

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IV. **In Conclusion:**

A. 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. Author Not Known

B. It all depends on what road you are on - as to what will be down the road:
1. There are but two ways, & only one leads to eternal life! - Mat 7:13,14; Jer. 6:16; Jn 14:6; Heb 5:8,9
2. Any & every other way leads to eternal death - Prov. 14:12; Mat 7:13,14; 15:7-9; 2 Thes 1:7-9
3. 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;

C. So the Question resides with you - What Road Are You On?
1. Place your hope and confidence fully in God - (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:17,18)
2. 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)
3. Are you following Jesus by following His teaching? or are you NOT?
   a. If you are, I pray that you will continue - your labor will not be in vain -
   b. If you are not - I pray that you will enter the straight & narrow way today!!