

January 22, 2023  
La Jolla Christian Fellowship  
**Learning Curve: A Study of Proverbs**  
**Episode 4 // The Benefits of Righteousness**  
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## **Proverbs 4:18**

**Vs. 18** *The path of the **righteous** is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. <sup>19</sup> But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.<sup>20</sup> My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words.<sup>21</sup> Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;<sup>22</sup> for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. <sup>23</sup> **Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.** <sup>24</sup> Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. <sup>25</sup> Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you.<sup>26</sup> **Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.** <sup>27</sup> Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.*

**Righteousness is not graded on a curve.**

**Righteousness:** Acting in accord with divine or moral law : free from guilt or sin.

- Righteousness is a free gift that is unattainable on our own, but it is also a lifestyle we are called to live.
  - **Unattainability— Romans 3:10** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.<sup>12</sup> All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."
  - **Free Gift— Romans 10:10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.
  - **Righteous Actions: Galatians 3:11** Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."

1. **Choose righteousness.**
2. **Guard your heart.**
3. **Make level paths for your feet.**

1. **Righteousness sheds light on your path. Vs. 18** The **path** of the righteous is like the first **gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.**
  - Here the proverbial metaphor equates righteousness to having a path that is increasingly and progressively more well-lit.
2. **Guard your heart: Vs. 23** Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
  - An unguarded heart is a poisoned well.
  - The heart is the filter of the mind's thoughts.
3. **Make level paths: Vs. 26** Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm.
  - Righteousness is indispensable for believers and indefensible for Satan.
  - **Proverbs 3:5-6** *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 will make your paths straight.*