When you need to drive, ride, or walk someplace you haven't been to before, what do you do?



1

What is this?
What is it for?

What is it for?







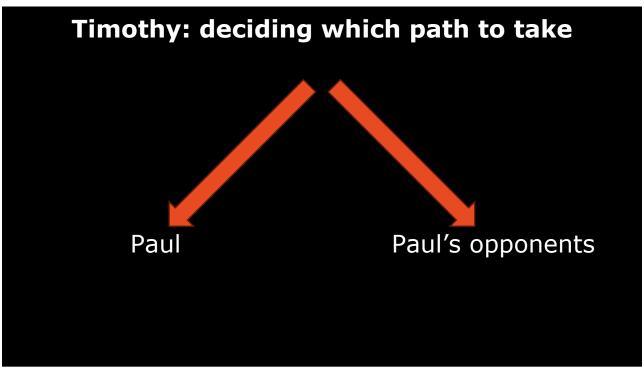
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Life is the most critical journey

How do you know the way to go?







2 Timothy 3:1-4

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

Plenty of people are going the wrong way...

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2 Timothy 3:10-17

¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings—what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

Timothy: deciding which path to take

Suffering & persecution
Teaching that rebukes
Fruit of Spirit: love,
joy, peace, patience, ...
Fewer people
Christ's teaching
Ends in rich blessing

Easier life (it seems)
Telling me I'm okay
Proud, abusive,
ungrateful, unforgiving
Crowded
Pleasure seeking
Ends in disaster

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learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 4:1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: ² Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.

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³ For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

[When God's Word is not what people want...]

⁵ But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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The Big Idea

The road for a truly good life is guided by the Bible and those who follow it

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The Big Idea

The road for a truly good life is guided by the Bible and those who follow it

Core Values of Crossway

God's Word

Holy Spirit

Diverse unity

Priesthood of all believers

Wholeness of our humanity given to God

Superabounding grace and complete obedience

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GOD'S WORD

We believe that **God has spoken, and continues to speak, to all of His people through the Bible**. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 4:12-13)

- So the Bible and its teachings are central to our ministries and gatherings as a church.
- We encourage all of our people to read and study the Bible, whether it is individually, in small groups, or as a church, using the languages and tools that are best suited to them while also being accurate and clear in the expression of God's message in His Word. (Acts 17:10-12)

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Action Item #1

Make the Bible central to life (and ministry)

Pray: Ask God to speak through His Word "Give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know you better." Ephesians 1:17 Trust that God will do it Read to know God better

Action Item #1

Make the Bible central to life (and ministry)

- Pray
- Read the Bible to hear God's voice (listen)

Perhaps a chapter each day Read the Gospels multiple times: Mark, Matthew, Luke, John

https://www.bible.com/bible/

23

Action Item #1

Make the Bible central to life (and ministry)

- Pray
- Read
- Be shaped by what it says: meditate on it

Memorize it

- > John 3:16
- Psalm 23 or 1 Corinthians 13

Question, puzzle, ponder, draw, paraphrase, ... With others

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



https://app2.jbell.org/Memory24

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Action Item #1

Make the Bible central to life (and ministry)

- Pray
- Read
- Meditate
- Do what it says

"Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." John 14:21

Action Item #2

Learn from good "teachers"

Teacher = Whatever or whoever shapes your heart and mind

- Who teach the Bible: "You know my teaching..." Directly Indirectly
- Who live the Bible: "You know my way of life..."
 Good to have other voices as secondary

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Action Item #2

Learn from good "teachers"

Teacher = Whatever or whoever shapes your heart and mind

Avoiding a very common error...

Picking what makes sense to me

Picking what says what I want to hear

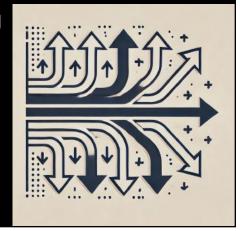
(It never confronts me)

Action Item #3

Be a good "teacher"

Everything we say and do is influencing others

Ask: "How is what I am saying and doing either pointing TO Jesus or TO something else?"



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The Big Idea

The road for a truly good life is guided by the Bible and those who follow it

Life is the most critical journey

How do you know the way to go?

31

Psalm 1

who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, The Bible but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff

that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand

in the judgment,

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over

the way of the righteous,

but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Those who choose to know and follow God in His Word

33

The Big Idea

The road for a truly good life is guided by the Bible and those who follow it