**SERMON SHEET 5/21/23**

**Graduate Sunday**

**“Dear Graduates, Stay on the Lighted Path”**

**Text: Psalm 119:105**

I. Introduction

II. The benefits of the lighted path

1. It is the path of divine wisdom (v. 105).
2. It is the path of directed order (v. 106).
3. It is the path of encouraging hope (v. 107).
4. It is the path of true worship (v. 108).
5. It is the path of divine protection (vs. 109-110).
6. It is the path of our eternal heritage (v. 111).

III. Conclusion – a final word

**QUOTES**

1. R. C. Sproul:

*As born-again children of God, the law enlightens us as to what is pleasing to our Father, whom we seek to serve. The Christian delights in the law of God as God Himself delights in it.* [It serves] *as an instrument for the people of God to give Him honor and glory.*

2. James M. Boice:

* *The Bible can help by explaining the various reasons for suffering… Nothing but God’s Word can show us that some suffering is merely common to man, some corrective, still other suffering constructive, Christ-glorifying, or even cosmic… Cosmic suffering demonstrates before Satan and the angels that a person can love and trust God for who he is in himself and not merely for what he gets out of him.*
* *These two things* *are what right worship and the practice of true religion are all about.* *Praise and teaching ought to go on in church. When we come to church, first and foremost we should be taught the Bible. God has spoken in the Bible, and it is in the Bible that he continues to speak. There is nothing more important for Christian growth and the health of the church than sound Bible teaching.*
* *The time is probably coming when Christians holding to absolute standards will be considered criminals. But Christians do hold to absolutes,* *and must hold them. We cannot hold to God’s standards without separating from the contrary standards of the world. We cannot love the right path without hating the wrong ones… Are you willing to hate what God hates? If not, you will never learn to love God truly, and you will certainly never walk in the way that brings true blessing.*

3. Thomas Oden:

*The church is not a group of people groping for a philosophy of life congenial to modern conditions, but a living body already being shaped by apostolic teaching. Holding steady to that teaching is a principal mark of the authenticity of the church.*

4. D. C. Innes:

* *The dominant cultural forces are targeting Christianity as a public enemy, a cultural force hostile to human rights—especially those of women and homosexuals—and thus as fundamentally un-American.*
* *Deepen your identity in Christ. Daniel’s three young friends withstood the temptation to assimilate in Babylon because they maintained their core self-understanding as Yahweh’s people. Christians must be clear on their chief love, the One who chiefly loves them, who their people are, and what is non-negotiable for such people. They need to support this clarity with a full Christian devotional life using all the means of grace: faithful attendance at worship, regular Bible reading and prayer, and godly fellowship*.

5. John Piper:

* *The Christian life is a call to risk*… *It is the will of God that we be uncertain about how life on this earth will turn out for us. And therefore it is the will of the Lord that we take risks for the cause of God.*
* *It is costly to follow Christ. There is risk everywhere. But this very risk is the means by which the value of Christ shines more brightly.*

**SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE**

* **Eccl. 2:13; Dan 5:13-14**
* **Ps. 16:11; Ps. 27:11; Prov. 2:9; Prov. 4:11, 14, 18**
* **Ps. 25:4-5; John 14:15; Ps. 37:3-6**
* **Ps. 119:50, 92, 126-128; Ps. 83:1**
* **1 Sam. 19:1-5; Matt. 6:24; Matt. 24:35**
* **Ps.119:112; James 1:22; Ps. 25:8-10**