



The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

March 2019

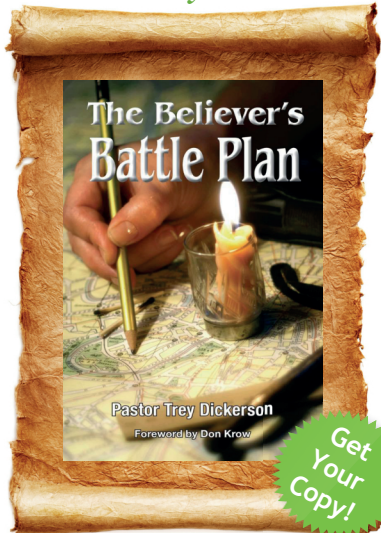
Paths of Righteousness ~ Pastor Trey Dickerson

In continuing our look at the 23rd Psalm this month, I want us to look at the second thing that David said in verse 3: “He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Now when David refers to “paths of righteousness” here, what he is literally referring to are “paths of rightness,” which is what “righteousness” really is. Therefore, the Lord—our Good Shepherd—has promised to lead us along these right and just paths.

When I consider this truth, I am immediately drawn to one of the most oft-quoted verses in the Bible, **Jeremiah 29:11**. In this beloved verse of so many, we have God’s heart concerning the plans He has for you and me. It says, *“For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”*

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Now it should be noted that the word “thoughts” in the beginning of this verse carries more of the idea of plans, purposes, or intentions.

However, we know that in order to have a plan and purpose, you must first give thought to those plans and purposes, correct?

So, the word “thoughts” is also a good word for us to consider because it shows that (as this Hebrew word is also translated in other passages of Scripture) God is “plotting, scheming and devising” a grand and glorious future for us! Amen? You know,



A WORD FROM SHANNON After I had Levi, I experienced major post-partum depression. Years later I remember telling someone about how dark that period in my life had been. During this conversation I was having, the Lord spoke this to me: **“Do not glorify anything I have delivered you out of, but glorify Me, the Deliverer, who can, will, and desires to bring you out of it all.”**

This was nothing short of pure freedom for me. I always knew that I could glorify

God by praising and worshiping Him; however, it had never occurred to me that I could glorify certain life issues or circumstances by continuing to talk about them. This showed me that the Lord is not only glorified when we praise and worship Him but also when we talk about Him and how good He is; however, we must be conscious not to glorify the devil in any way by talking about what he has done in our lives.

We must choose life and blessing on a daily basis. Choose to glorify God today by being conscious of what you are spending the majority of your time talking about!

(“Paths of Righteousness” continued)

when we hear words like to “plot, scheme and devise,” we usually lean towards the negative, but that is not the case here. In the mind of God, His “scheming” revolves around our blessing! In other words, God’s thoughts towards us are thoughts devising our good and welfare. Praise, Jesus!

My friends, the mind of Christ is filled with wonderful plans, purposes and intentions for your life! He has a plan for you! You might not think He does; but He does! That’s why I believe it is significant how the first part of Jeremiah 29:11 is worded:

Notice again that the Lord says, “For I know the thoughts I think toward you, says the Lord...” Why does He say, “For I know the thoughts...”? Evidently, it was because His people believed He was thinking something else! Did you know that this is still true today? So many of God’s people have a totally incorrect perception of what God is thinking about them. They think God is harsh, critical and fault-finding—always focused on our sin and shortcomings. This is why the Lord went on to say in Jeremiah 29:11 that the thoughts and plans that He knows He has for us are for peace and not of evil. Evidently, this is exactly what His chosen people believed He was thinking about them—thoughts of evil. Nothing could be further from the truth! As we have already seen, the exact opposite is true!

You see, while God certainly is well aware of all of our faults and failures, He does not focus on the negative. No, in fact, God is focused more on our potential and His good plan for us than all of the ways that we fall short of His glory. Sure, we tend to focus on the negatives in people, but not God! No, First Corinthians 13:5 tells us that love thinks no evil. Amen! Other translations say, “(love) keeps no record of wrongs,” “(love) does not count the bad” and “it doesn’t keep score of the sins of others.” So, listen—if God is love (1 John 4:8), then that means that God keeps no record of wrongs, He does not count the bad things in us, and He doesn’t keep score of our sins! Amen! In fact, the Scriptures teach us that our sins and lawless deeds He remembers no more (Hebrews 10:17)! Why? It is because He has removed our sins as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12)! Praise the Lord!

So, His thoughts, plans and purposes for us are of “peace” and not of evil. Now, of course, the word “peace” comes from the Hebrew word “shalom”—which means more than simply having an absence of conflict. Shalom describes “completeness, wholeness, soundness, success and welfare.” It basically describes having nothing missing and nothing broken in our lives. So, we can see that God’s thoughts and plans for our lives involve making them complete, whole, sound, successful and with nothing missing and nothing broken. Amen!

So, we have clearly seen God’s heart on the matter: He has good thoughts and plans for us! His purpose for us is to live lives that are complete, whole, sound—with nothing missing and nothing broken in them. This sounds to me like He has planned a good life for us. Amen! I’ll have that! How about you?

(For more on this subject, you can visit our website and read the full message entitled “Paths of Righteousness” under the section called “Articles.”)

Victoriously,



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