



“Let all that you do be done with love.”

Open Bibles or Bible apps!

Psalm 119

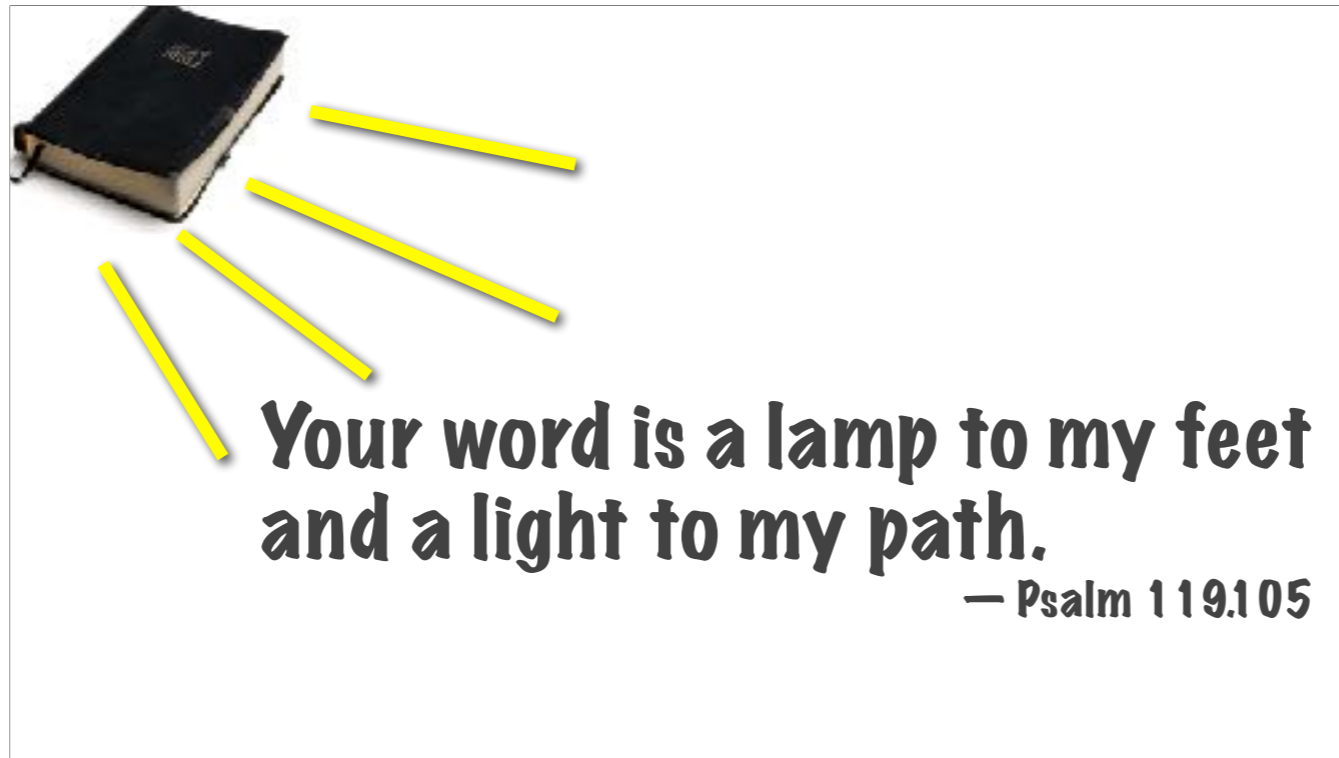


**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

— Psalm 119:105

For Christians, the Bible is a great treasure. More valuable than any other possession.

Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.



Why is light important?

Danger of being in the dark... trip, fall, stub. More!

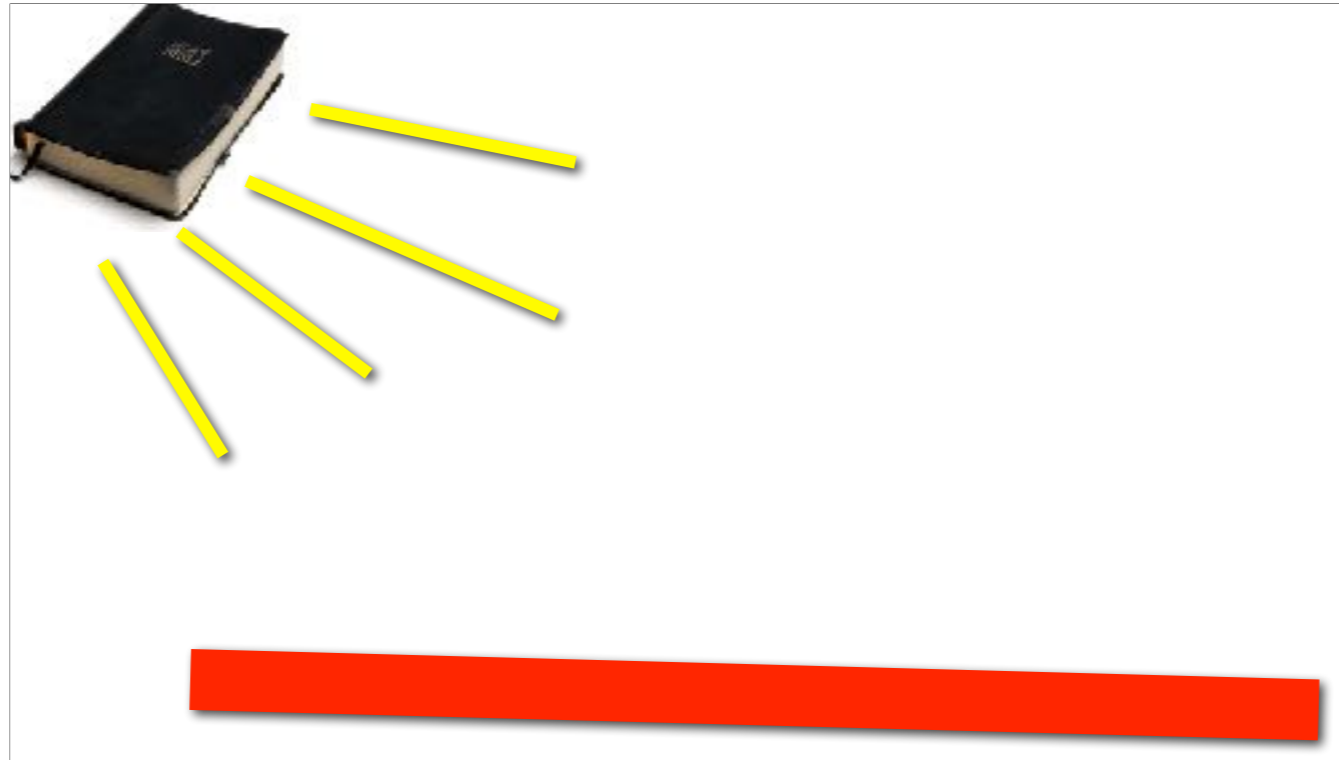
Imagine being lost in unfamiliar woods... danger all around, don't know way home. Need light for safety and to find path.

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

—Matthew 7:13-14

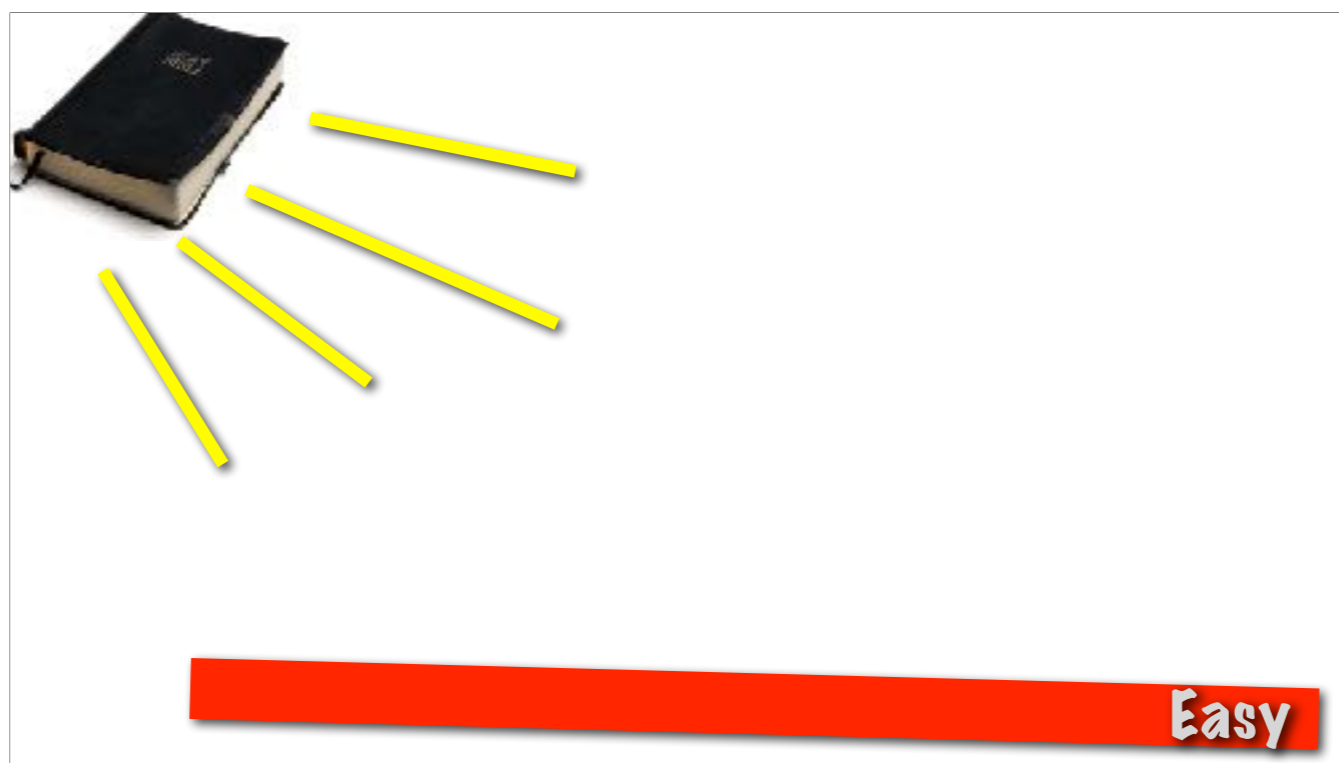


Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. [14] For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.



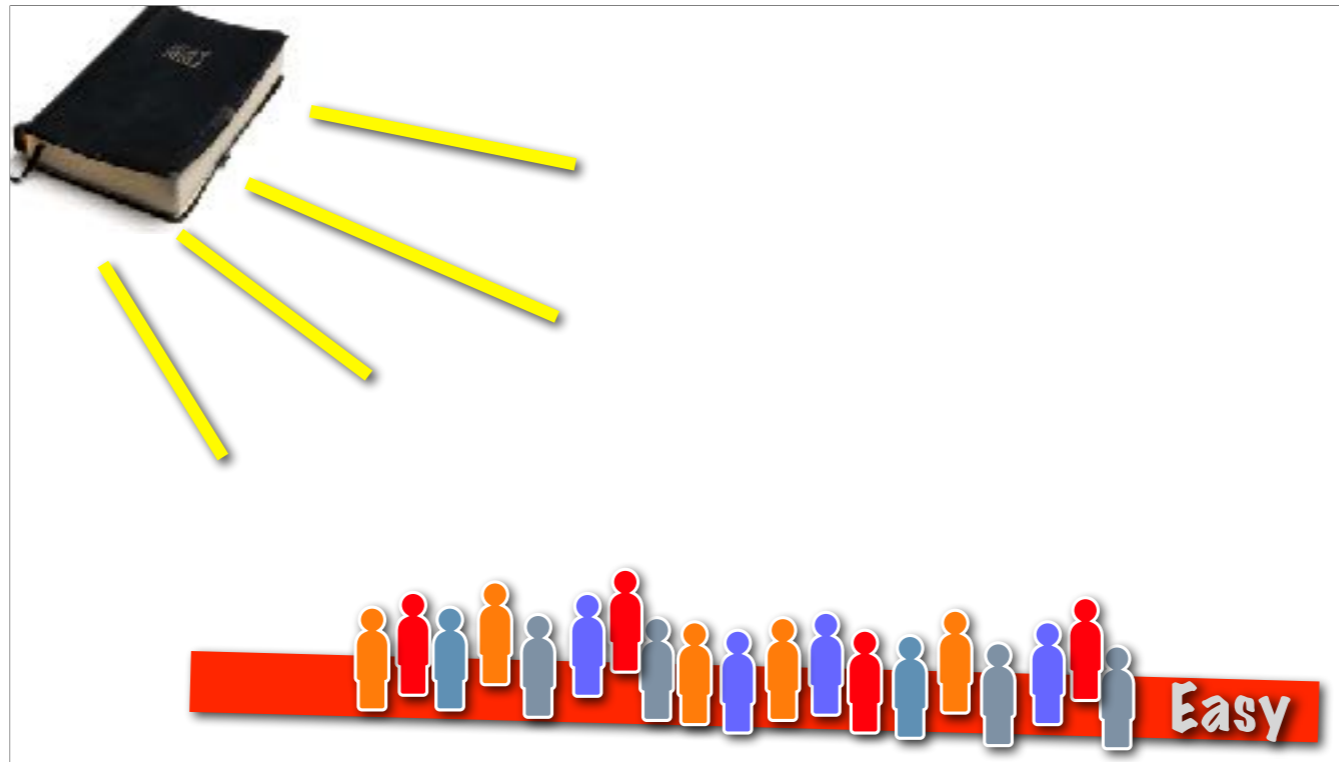
Matthew 7.13-14: Two Paths

one is wide...

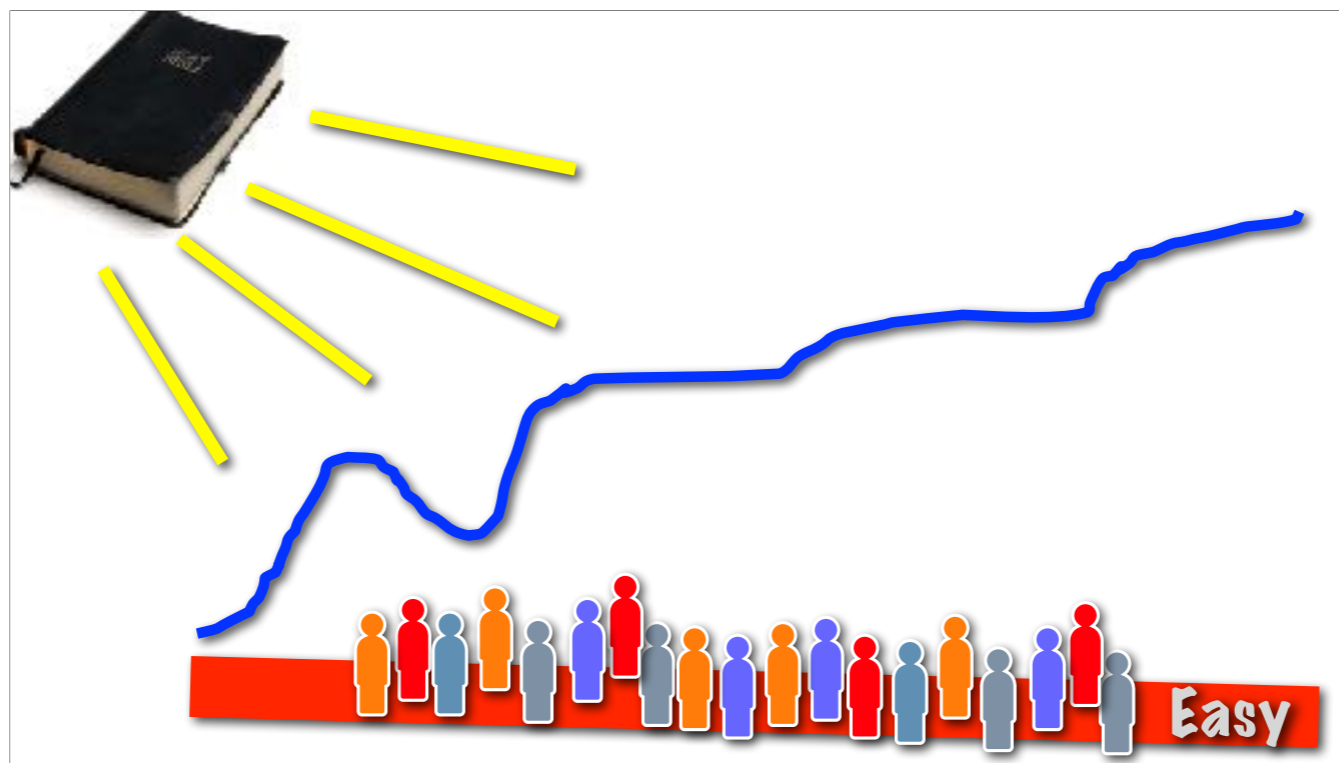


and easy

and...

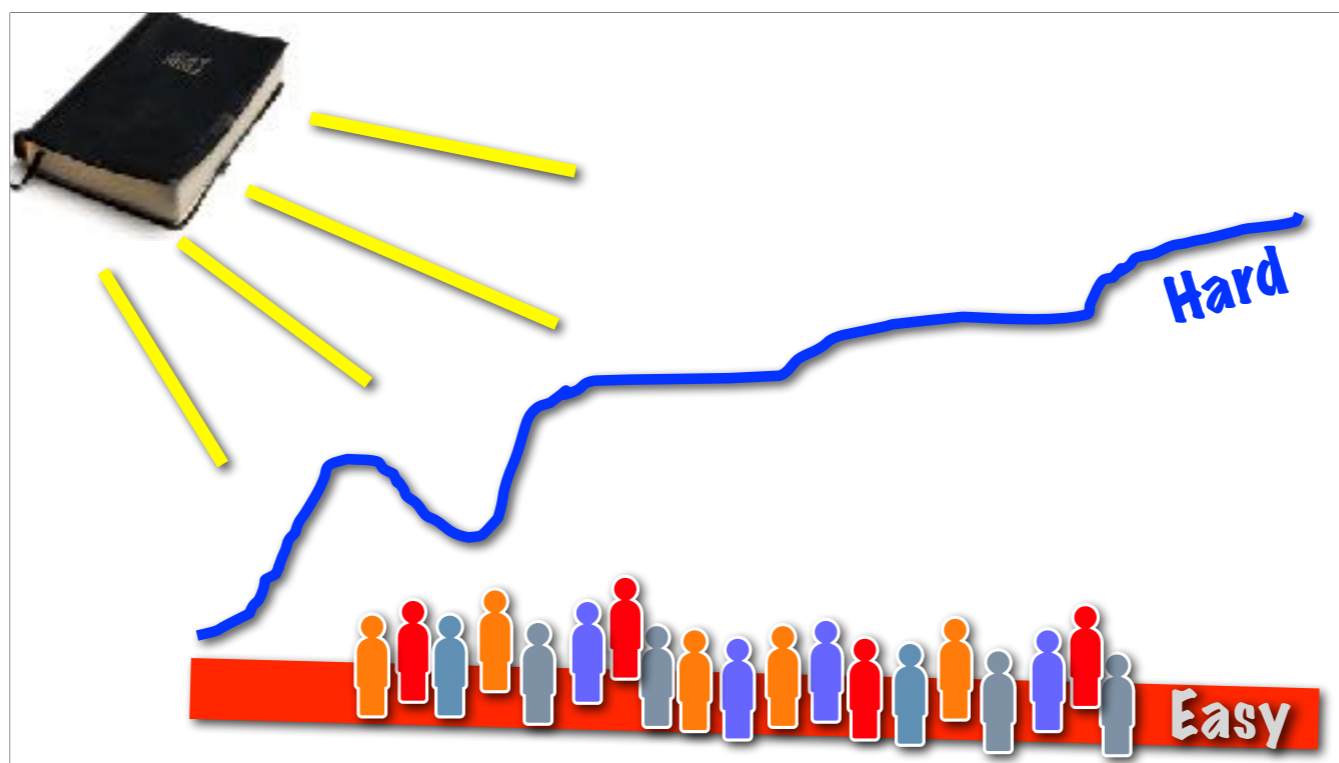


And many are on that path.



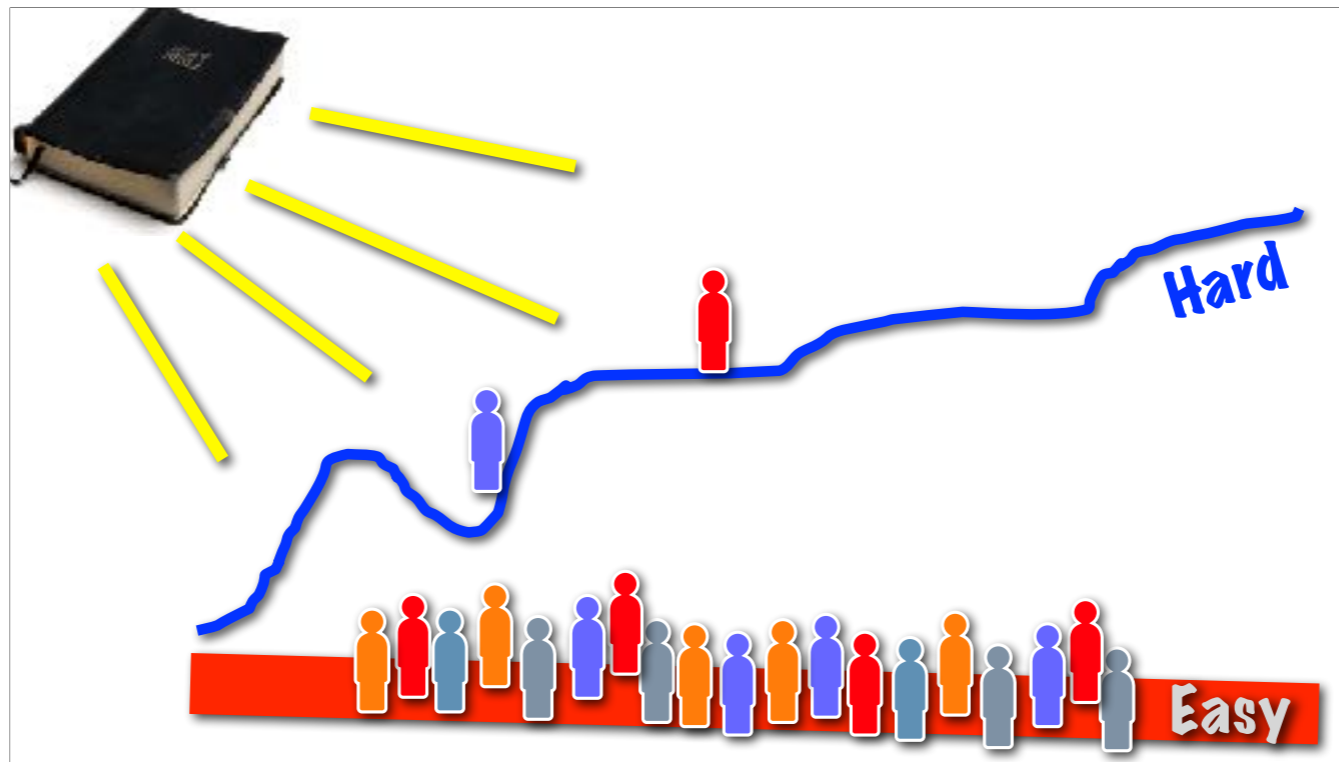
The other path narrow

And...

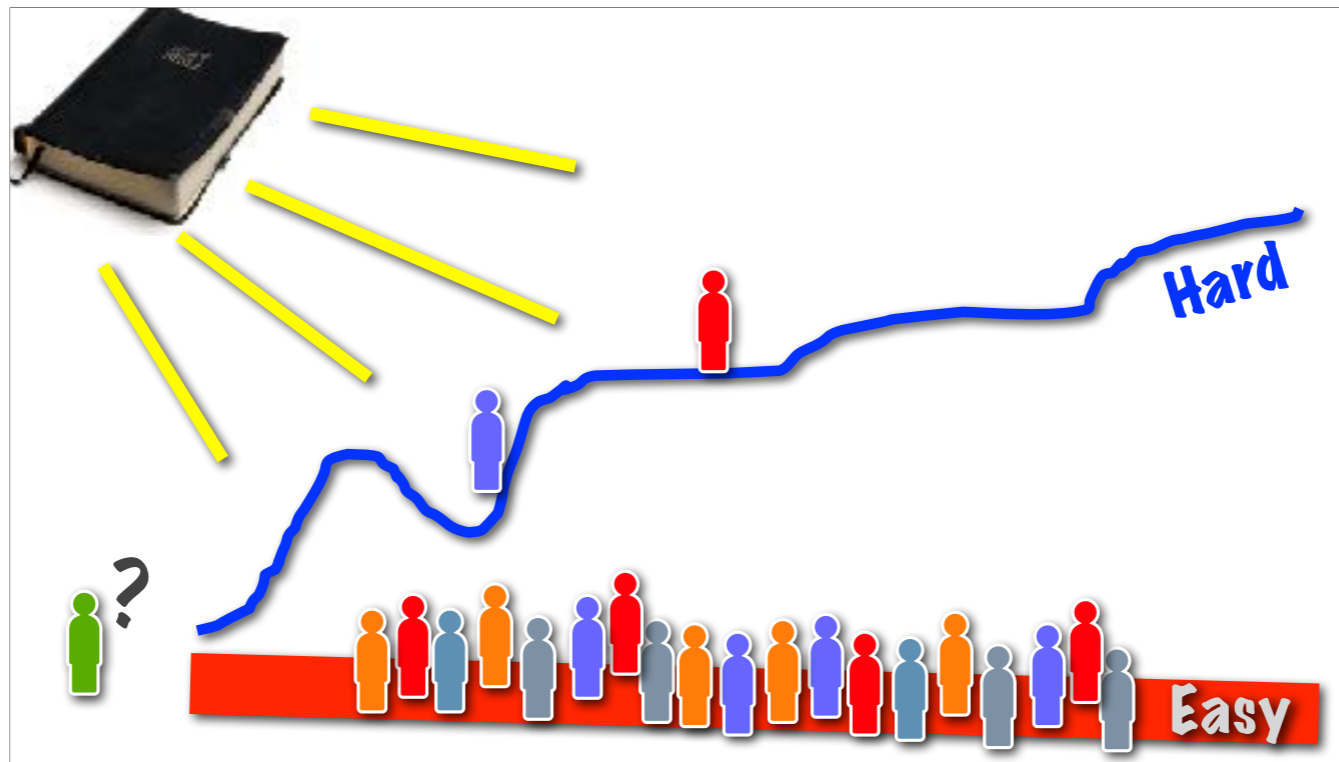


hard

And...



only a few take that path.

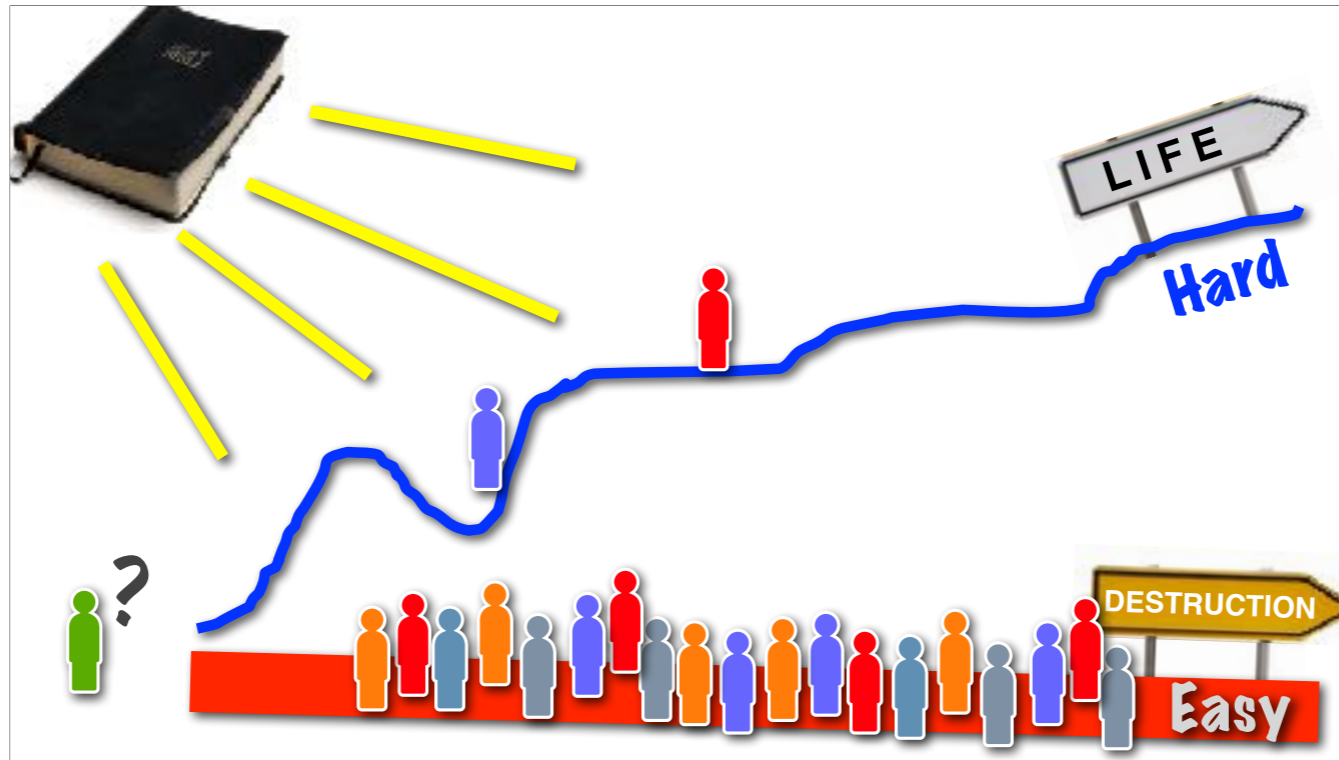


This is you. big decision!

How does the Bible help me know which path I should take? Light!

Way that is easy? Many following? Looks like a wise choice.

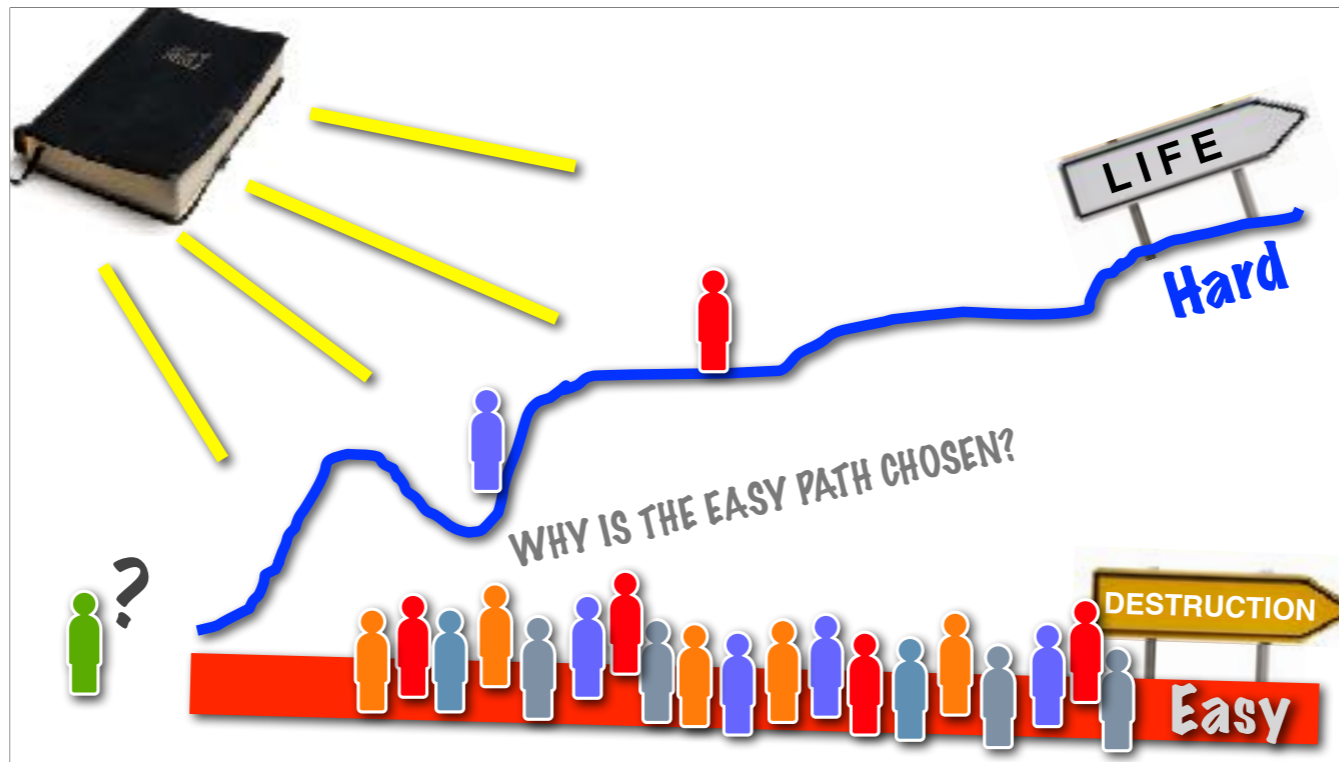
Way that is hard, few on it. Why choose this path?



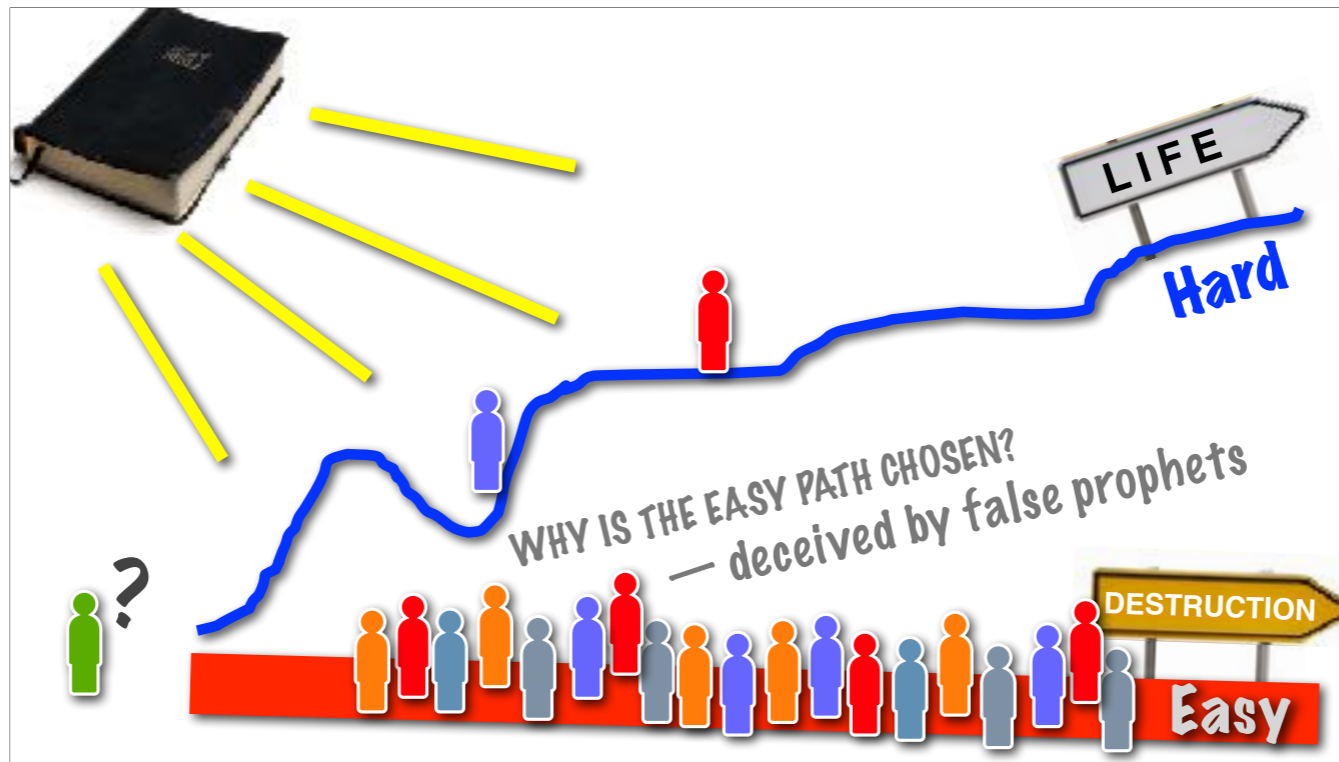
The Bible shows us where these paths lead.

The popular path, that is easy and that so many choose... leads to destruction.

The other path: that is obviously hard and few people choose... it doesn't seem inviting, or the right choice. But it leads to life!



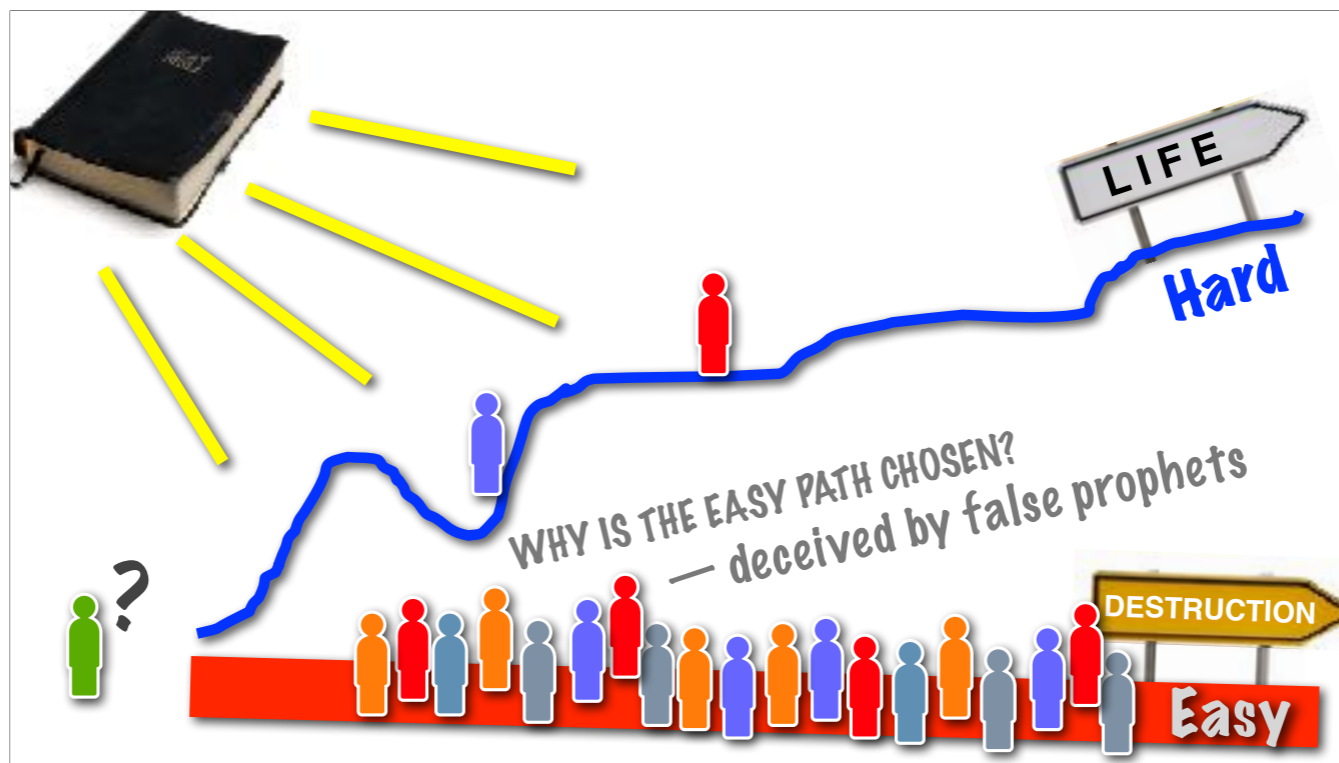
Why do many choose to follow the easy path? Why do we follow the multitude?



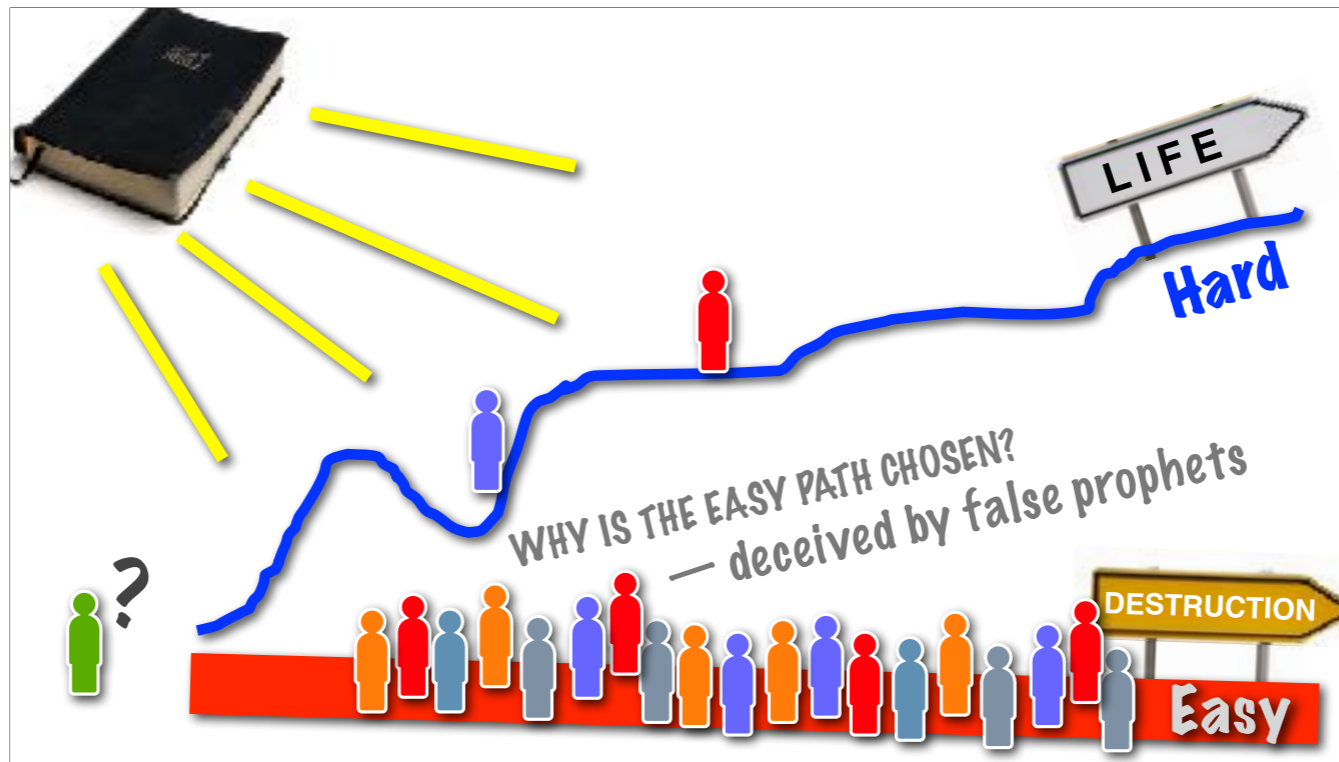
1) Some are deceived by false prophets (Mt. 7.15).

Just because some claims to speak from God, or use the Bible, doesn't mean it is true.

Why so many churches? Why so many different teachings? False teachers.



Acts 17:11: Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.



2 Timothy 4:3-4: For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, [4] and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.



2) Some are self-deceived (Mt. 7.21-23)

Cannot just believe, claim "Lord, Lord".

Consider myself to be religious (I use the right words).

Must do his will.

James 2:17: So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.



Cannot do whatever we want and claim it is for God, or a good work.

Think I am following Jesus, but not really.

Think I am doing good, but I'm not.

Must do His will.



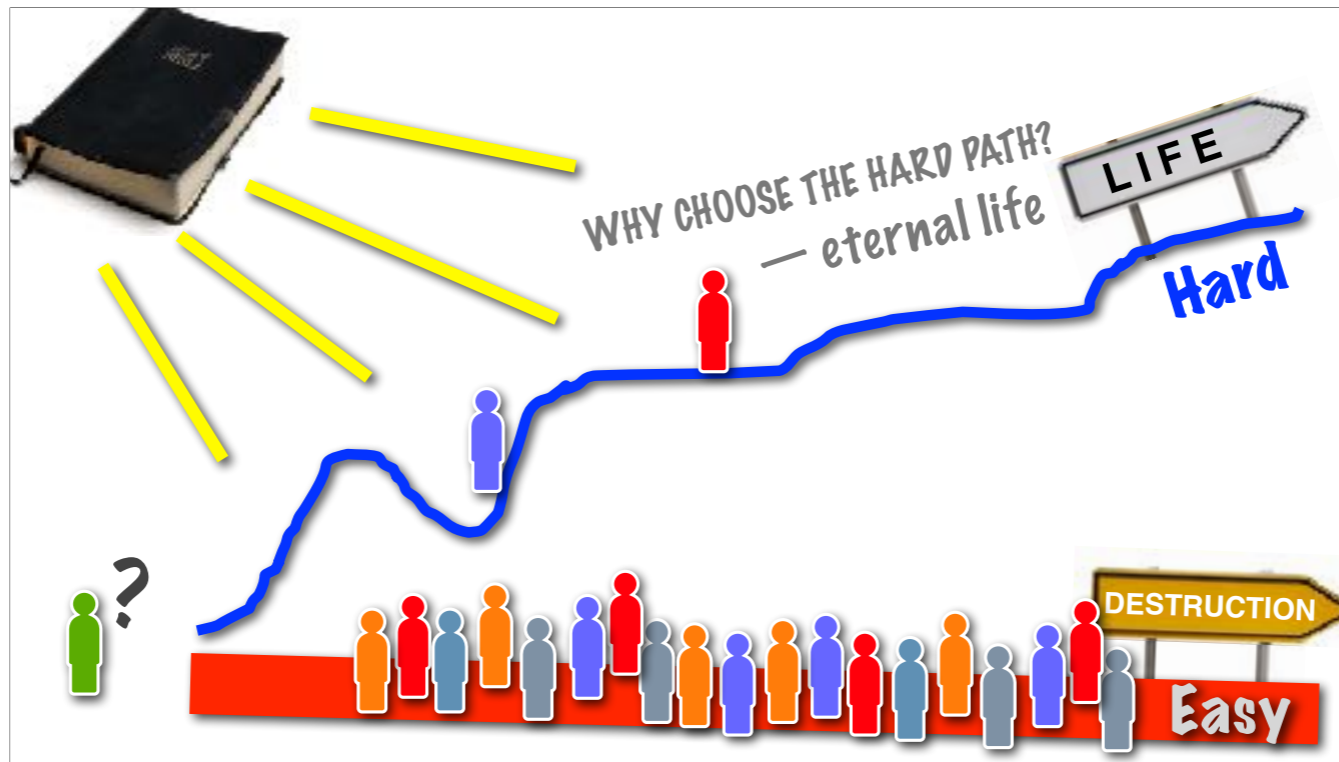
3) Selfishness (What can God do for me right now?)

John 6:26-27: Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. [27] Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal."



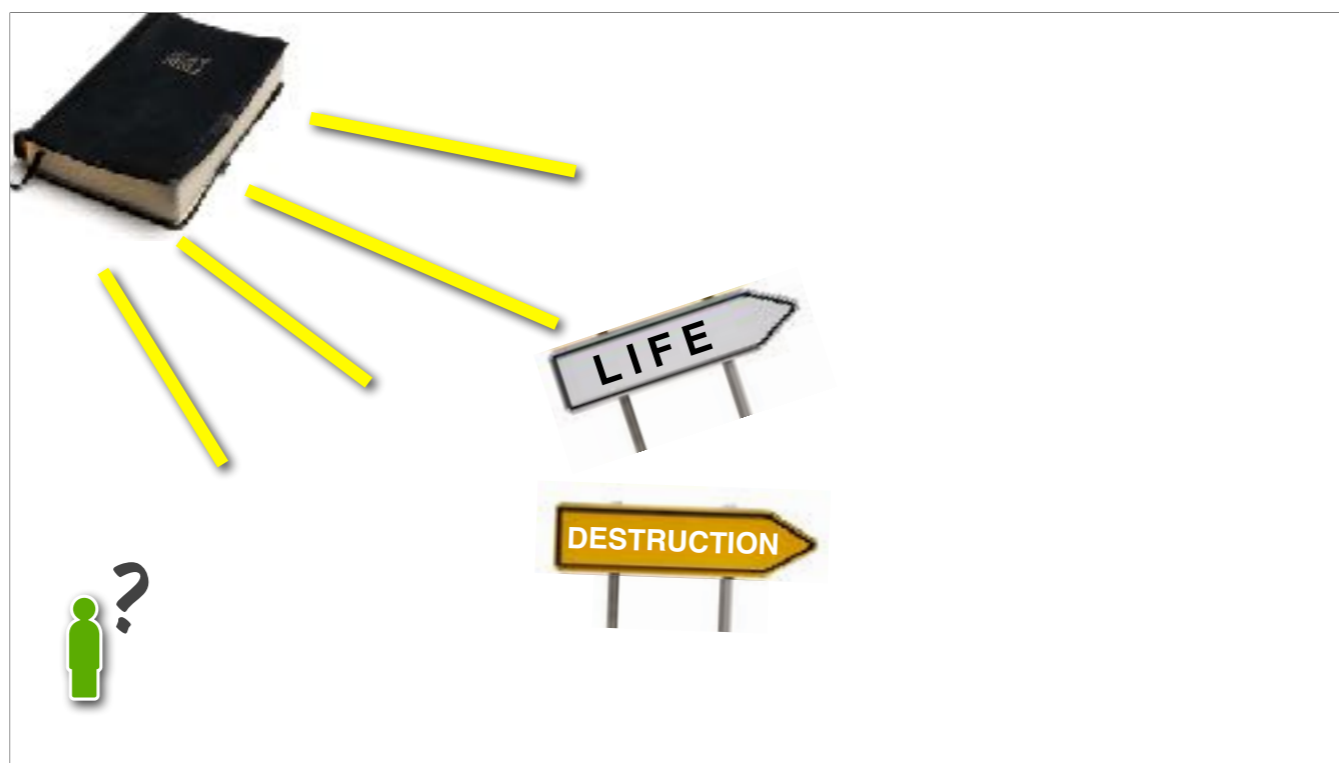
John 6:60: When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"

John 6:66: After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.



Why choose the hard path?

John 6:67-69: So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" [68] Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, [69] and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."



So which path will you choose, now that you have ALL the information.

It's not just about the journey... it's the destination!

It's not about the path, but the destination.

Will you choose destruction or life?

**All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for
reproof, for correction, and for
training in righteousness, that
the man of God may be
competent, equipped for
every good work.**

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



2 Timothy 3.16-17: All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and **profitable** for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



Profitable = useful, beneficial

Not a book to be kept on a shelf and ignore, useful for our daily lives.

Not a book for just scholars to study, debate, discuss, dissect, theorize, etc.

It's a book from God for you to use.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for **teaching**, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



Four uses: 1) teaching!

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for **reproof**, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



2) reproof

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for **correction**, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



3) correction

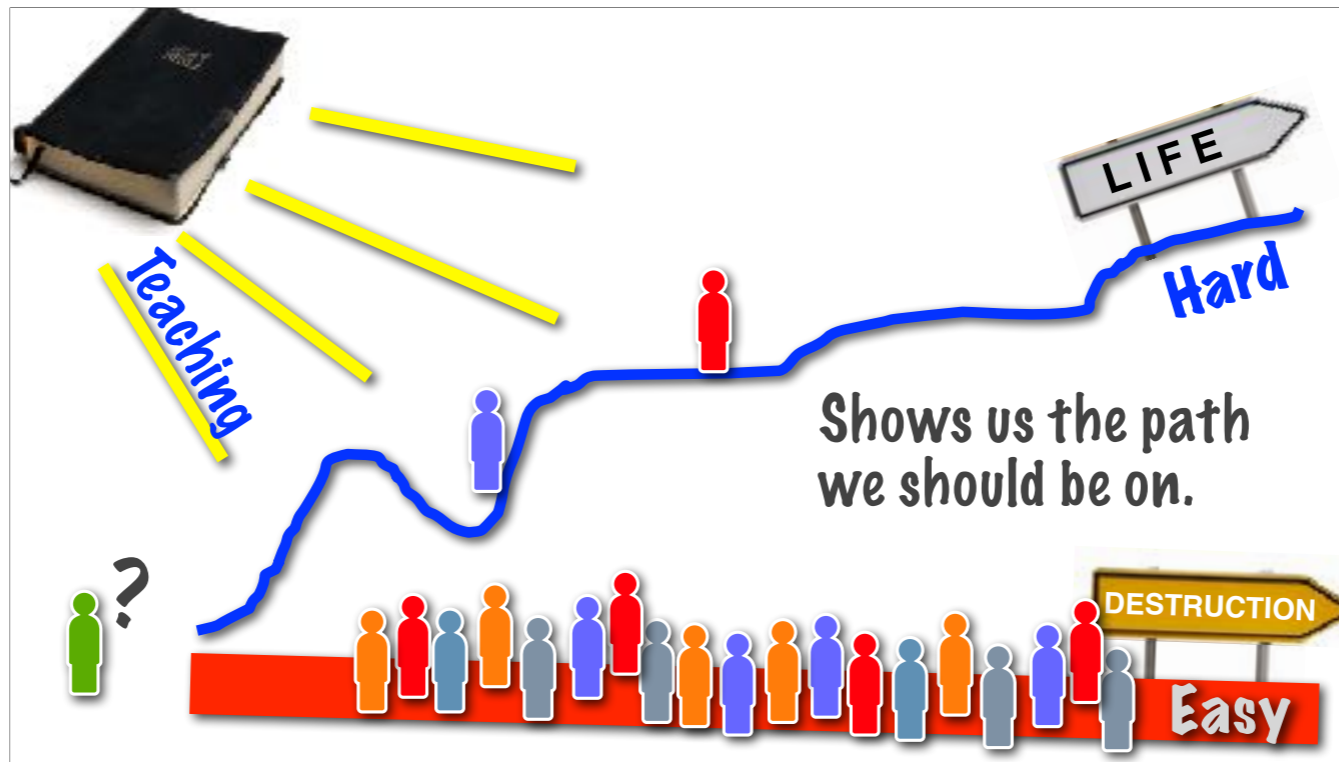
All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training** in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

—2 Timothy 3:16-17



4) training in righteousness.

Here is how the Bible is useful to us in our lives each day.



Shows us the path we should be on.

This section can be illustrated using the analogy of learning a math problem or athletic training.

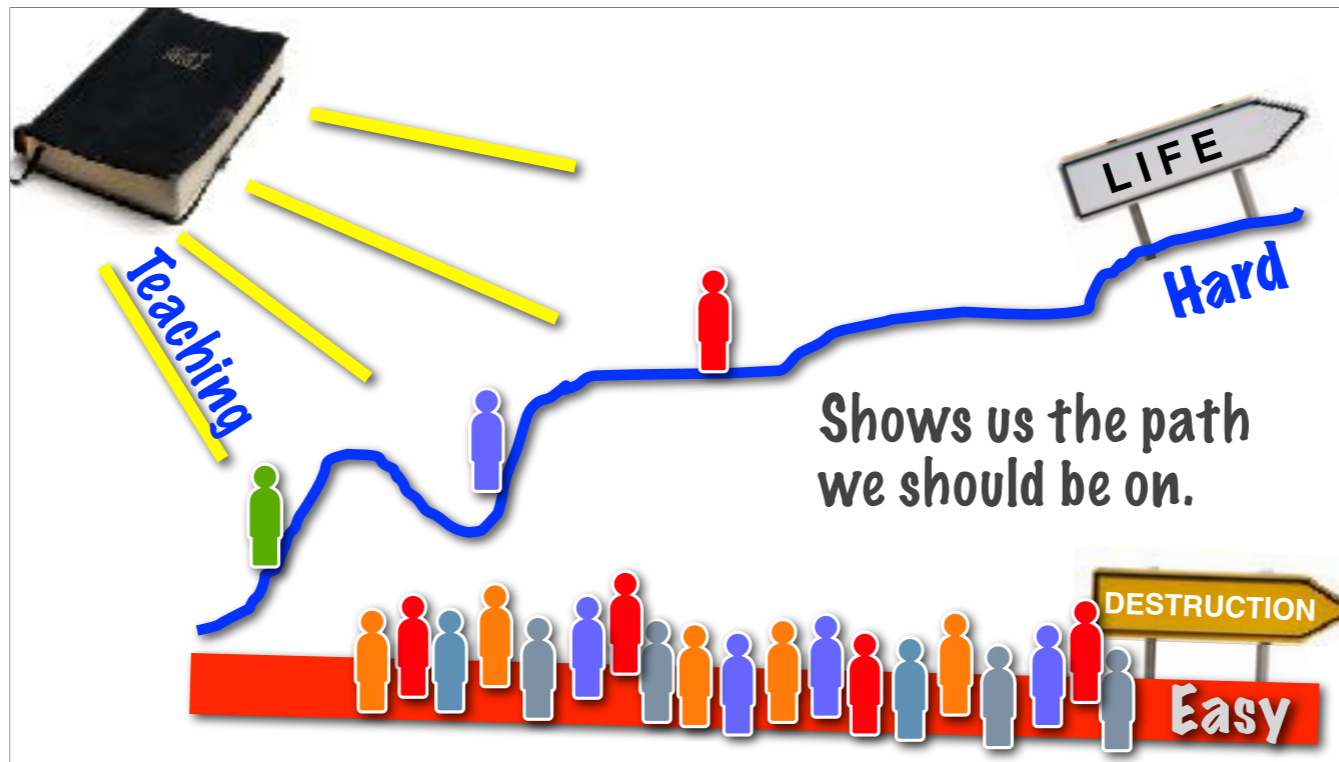
Skiing



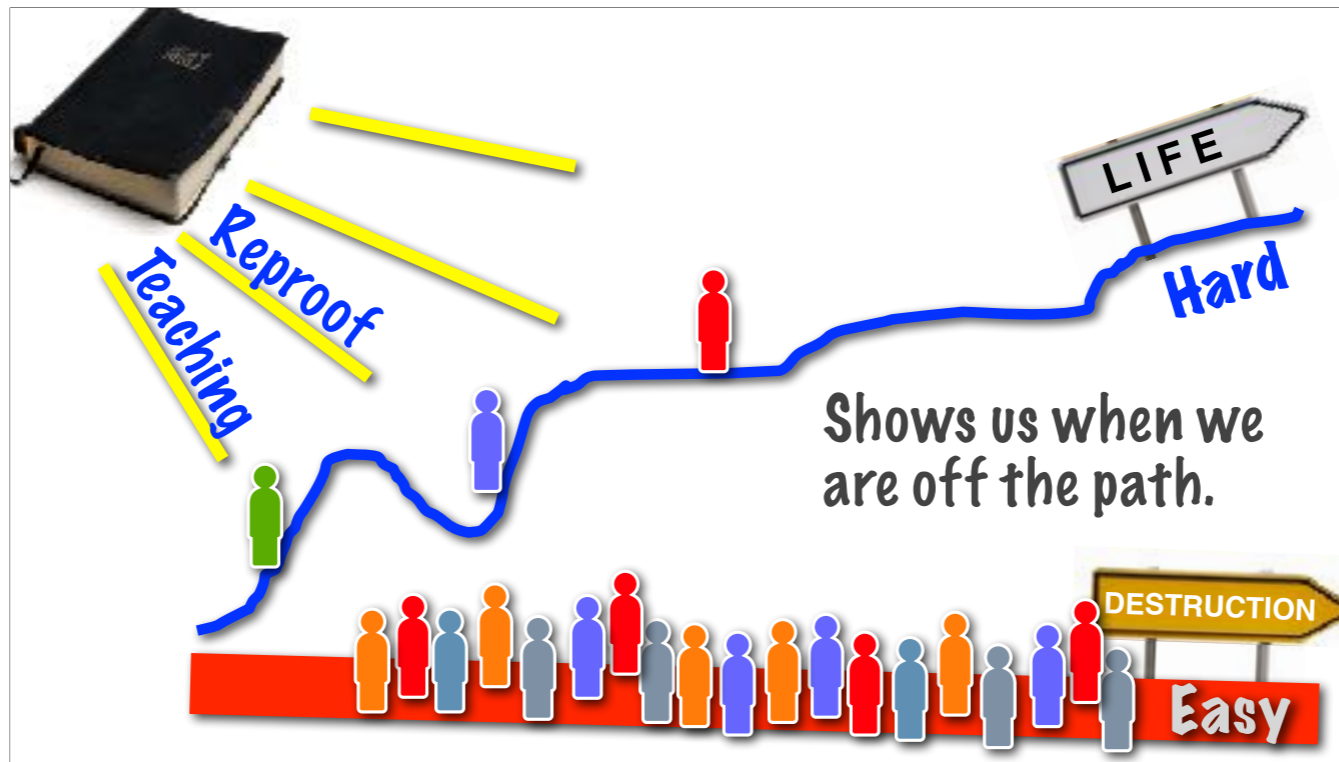
To learn to ski, you need someone to teach you what you should do.



To snow plow, make skis like V. Keep downhill ski perpendicular to slope or pointed slightly uphill.



Because of God's word, you know to choose the narrow, hard path... Because it leads to life!



Shows us when we are off the path.

Like a teacher telling us that our answer is wrong, or a coach who tells us that our form is incorrect.



A good teacher...

Explain what you did wrong. Don't let the tips of the skis cross or you'll flip over.

A bad teacher... just yells, doesn't help. Tells you you are wrong, doesn't help you understand.



Shows us when we are off the path.

Like a teacher telling us that our answer is wrong, or a coach who tells us that our form is incorrect.



Shows us how to return to the path.

Like a teacher demonstrating how to do a problem correctly, or a coach demonstrating the proper form.



Help you get back up, let you know what you need to do. Demonstrate correct action, talk you through what you did wrong and remind you how to do it right.



Shows us how to return to the path.

Like a teacher demonstrating how to do a problem correctly, or a coach demonstrating the proper form.



Shows us how to stay on the path.

Like a teacher who gives us homework so that we practice problems until we are accustomed to solving them, or an athlete who repeatedly practices the basics until they are habit.



Training... practice, practice, practice.

Keep going down the slope over and over again until you can do it easily.

Keep getting better, until your skis aren't always in a v and you can focus on skiing, not on technique.




Shows us how to stay on the path.

Like a teacher who gives us homework so that we practice problems until we are accustomed to solving them, or an athlete who repeatedly practices the basics until they are habit.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be **complete**, equipped for every good work.

mature, full grown Timothy 3:16-17



competent... adequate... perfect

ASV: Complete (mature)

Full grown, maturity



So that the man of God may be competent (perfect, mature).

The Bible is useful so that you can grow up to be the man or woman that God would have you to be.

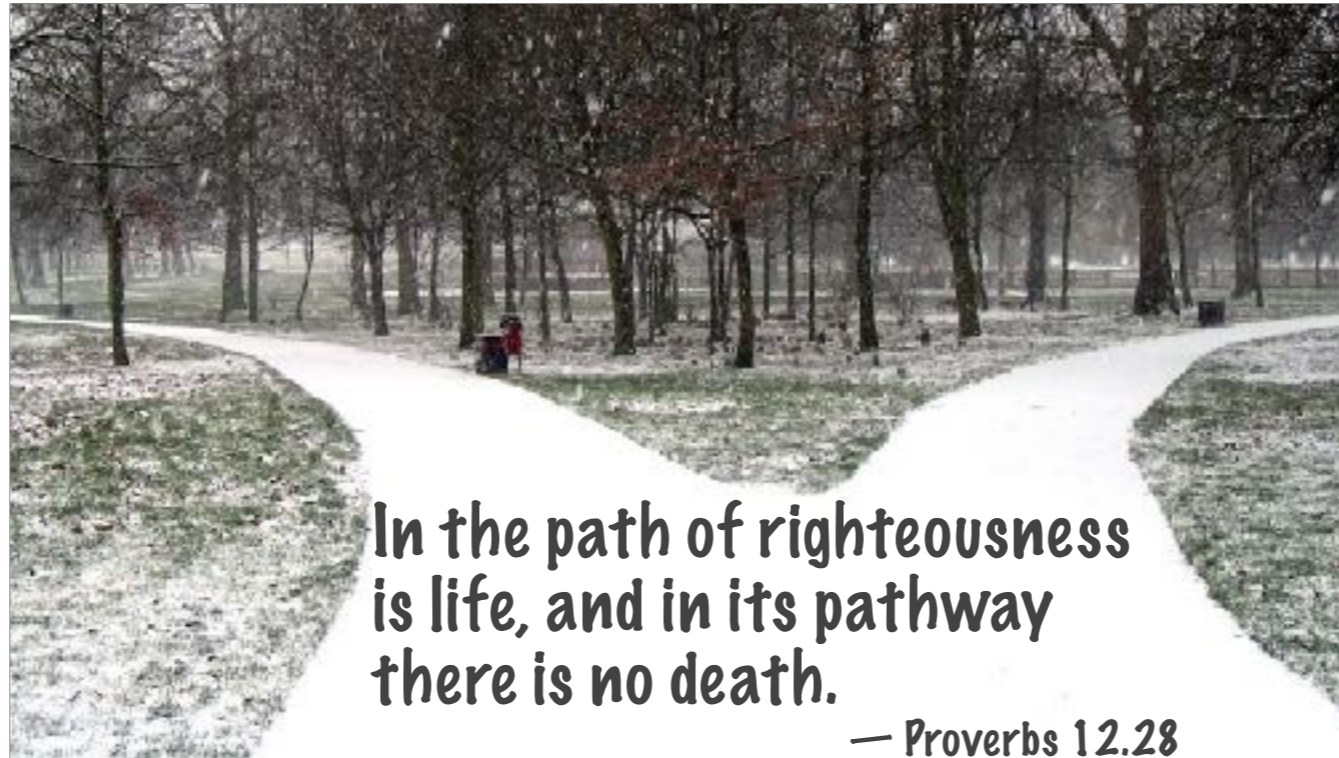
Of course, that means you have to use it!



**The way of a fool is right in
his own eyes, but a wise man
listens to advice.**

— Proverbs 12.15

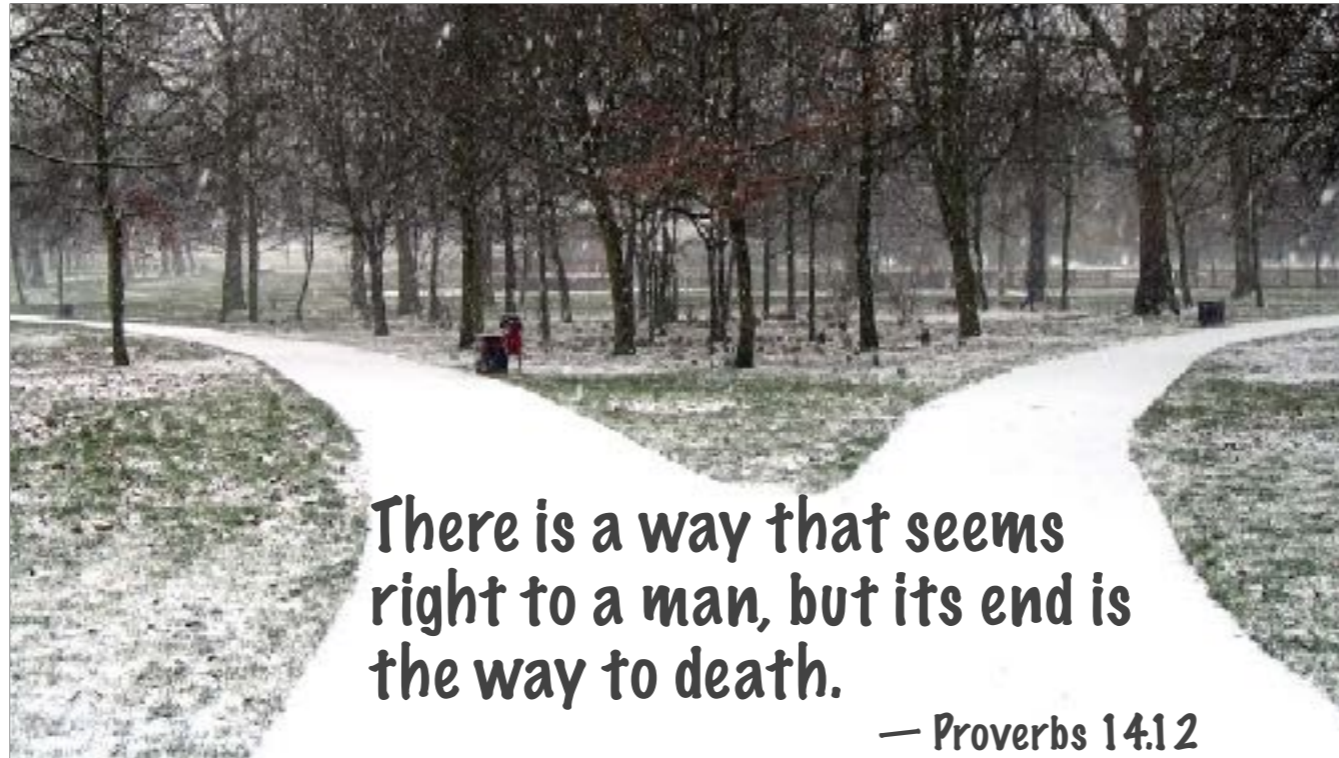
Proverbs 12:15: The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.



**In the path of righteousness
is life, and in its pathway
there is no death.**

— Proverbs 12.28

Proverbs 12:28: In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.



Proverbs 14:12: There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.



Proverbs 3:5: Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.



**In all your ways acknowledge
Him, and He will make
straight your paths.**

— Proverbs 3.6

Proverbs 3:6: In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.



Proverbs 3:7: Be not wise in your own eyes; fear Jehovah, and turn away from evil.



**It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones.**
— Proverbs 3:8

Proverbs 3:8: It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

**Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.**

—Psalm 119:105-106



Psalm 119:105: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Next verse!

Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
I have sworn an oath and confirmed
it,
to keep your righteous rules.

—Psalm 119:105-106



Psalm 119:106: I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules.

Which
path
will you
choose?



Which path will you choose? Choose LIFE!

PAUSE!!!

Have you all got your songbooks? Open to song?

Last thought.



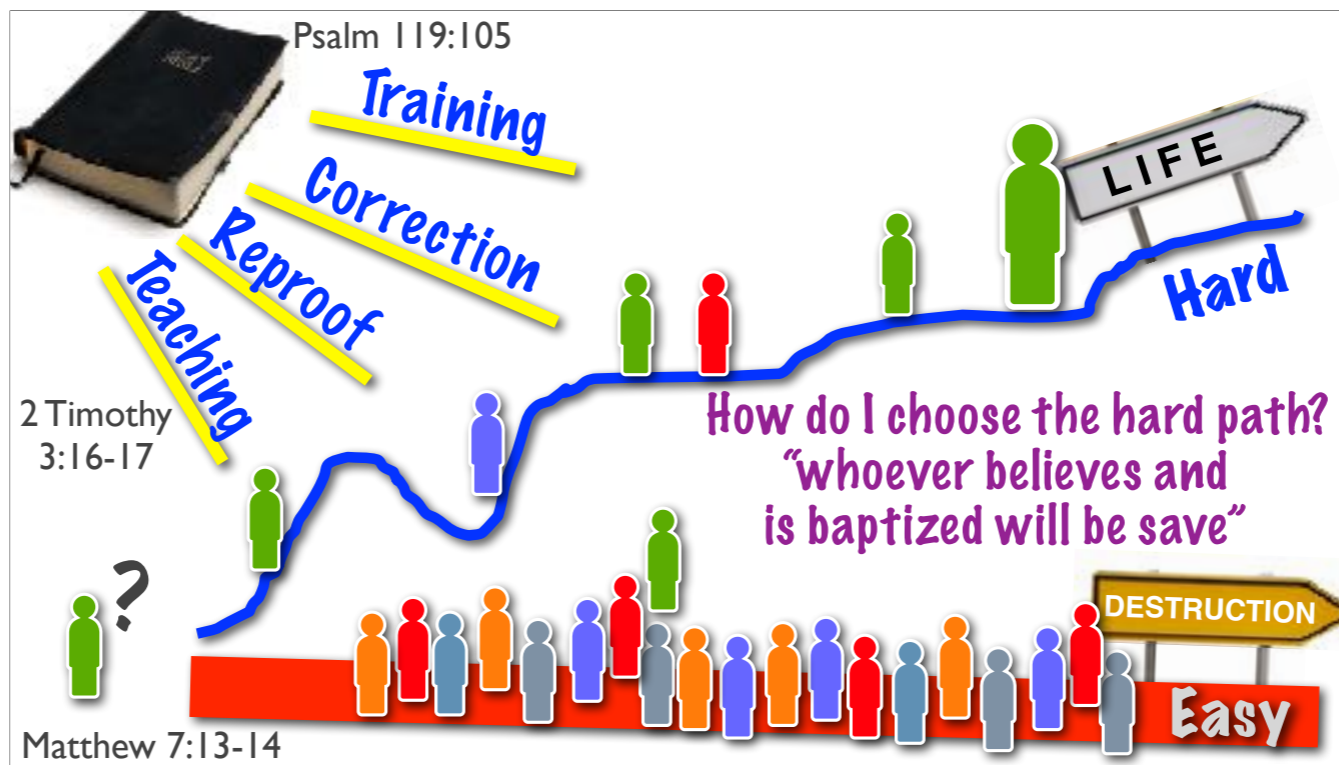
How do we actually choose the hard path?



John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."



John 3:16: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.



Mark 16:16: Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Slide show created and presented by
Dave Stewart

Concept of the paths in 2 Timothy 3.16–17 from Steve Calvert.

Slide 1: the hanner : <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hanalita/5868250/>

Slide 2: jsolie: iStock_000005121013

Slide 6: Little Guys from Brian Peat (Frames Extras)

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Miscellaneous 2023

#02

Compiled and Presented by:
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2023 October 29
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A Tale of Two Paths

Psalm 119:105; Matthew 7:13-14; 2 Timothy 3:16

Synopsis: A reminder that we have two paths we can choose to walk and why the Bible helps us decide which path is best for us to follow.
Original lesson from 2013 (or so)

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”