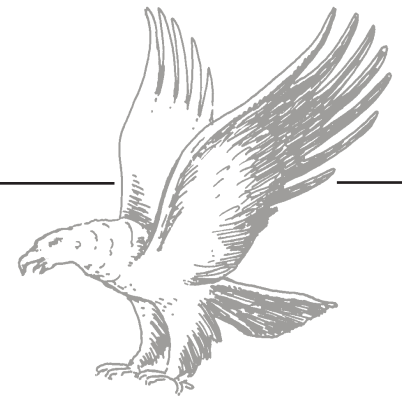


# Wings

*"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



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## Which Way?

Whether our life turns out good or bad depends on the decisions we make every day.

Those decisions spring from an underlying attitude we hold toward God and His instructions.

*"I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts" (Isa. 65:2).*

*"Stand in the way and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls" (Jer. 6:16).*



The Bible frequently uses the metaphor of "walking" to describe life. Life is truly a journey, and every decision we make is another step toward our ultimate destination.

But what is that destination? And what route do we take to get there? These two verses provide guidance in planning the trip.

Jeremiah's description of "the good way" stands in sharp contrast to "a way that is not good" in Isaiah. The Hebrew word "good" (the same in both verses) is a generic word that describes whatever is pleasant, beautiful, helpful, cheerful. So there is a path we can take in life that will make the journey a positive experience ("you will find rest for your souls"); and there are other paths that

will take us through dark and dangerous places. How can we tell the difference?

Atheists like to appeal to "human flourishing" as the standard for making life choices. That approach has some merit. We instinctively recognize when life is going well or going badly. Unfortunately, we do not always recognize what contributes to that flourishing—or what destroys it—until the die has been cast and it's too late to undo the mistake.

God has gone to great lengths to provide us with a volume of wisdom that removes much of the guesswork from the decision. He has defined for us what is "the good way," and insists that we walk in it. The benefits of following that direction will become apparent in due course.

But as free moral agents, we can choose a different path. We can rebel against God's word and devise an alternate route from our own imagination, and walk in "a way that is not good." As we journey down that path, we will eventually encounter the unpleasant consequences of our rebellion.

Let's translate this metaphor into more practical terms. In recent years Western civilization has been dominated by the philosophy of moral relativism, the idea that all moral judgments are subjective, relative to each culture in which they are found. In this view, what one culture believes to be "right" might be considered "wrong" in another culture, or visa versa; yet both perspectives are considered equally valid. Armed with this philosophy, people by the millions now refuse to render *any* judgment on the morality of *any* behavior.

The result of this moral confusion is a society that is rushing headlong into a minefield of destructive behaviors. The social chaos that is tearing our nation apart is not random bad luck, but the predictable outcome of multitudes living as they want, not as God wants.

There is a reason these competing worldviews are called "good" and "not good," and there's nothing arbitrary or capricious about it. The sooner we accept that reality, the sooner we can begin moving in a direction that yields the goodness our hearts long for.

– David King