

KIRBSTONES

ALONG THE NARROW WAY

curb-stone (kürb'stön') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served ⁽¹⁾to hold the material in the roadbed, ⁽²⁾to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and ⁽³⁾to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

¹³ "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.

¹⁴ BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV

05.2025 | #267



In an age saturated with many voices clamoring for attention—from *social media influencers* to *political pundits*—it is imperative that the Church remains anchored in God's Word. A well prepared sermon, one that genuinely imparts moral vision, must start with God and come from God. A sermon bearing the truth of God does not originate in human opinion or cultural trends. Only when it truly reflects the light of God, can the words of the sermon brightly illuminate the path of righteousness, guiding believers safely through the complexities of life.

Scripture underscores the necessity of divine revelation for moral clarity. This "revelation" refers to prophetic insight or revelation from God. When there is no revelation or vision, we lose our individual and collective moral compasses, which leads to chaos and destruction. Sermons must be rooted in God's revelation to provide the moral guidance that we as individuals and our communities desperately need.

*Where there is no revelation, the people cast off
restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.
Proverbs 29:18—NIV*

The psalmist declares, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). This metaphor illustrates that God's Word provides the necessary illumination to navigate life's journey safely. Without this divine light, we stumble in darkness, as we become vulnerable to deception and moral error. Therefore, sermons must faithfully expound Scripture, allowing its light to guide listeners toward righteousness.

Jesus affirms, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Christ is the ultimate source of moral and spiritual illumination. Preaching that reflects his light offers hope and direction, enabling believers to discern the truth from falsehood and to live in alignment with God's will.

The late Dr. William B. McClain, my esteemed professor of preaching at Wesley Theological Seminary, taught us that the congregation had a hunger and an expectation for sermons that would convey God's voice.

I remember Dr. McClain telling our class in our initial session that semester that "people come to worship on Sunday morning expecting to hear a fresh word from God." When we follow this line of thinking, we underscore the belief that the preacher's responsibility is to seek God's guidance diligently, ensuring that sermons are to deliver divine insight rather than mere human wisdom.

To fulfill this sacred duty each week, preachers must (1) engage in earnest prayer, (2) rigorous study of Scripture, and (3) attentive listening to the Holy Spirit. This spiritual discipline enables them to discern God's message for their congregations, ensuring that sermons resonate with the divine authority of God's truth. By doing so, pastors honor the trust placed in them by the listeners, and they fulfill the calling as messengers of God's truth.

In conclusion, sermons that convey true moral vision must be (1) grounded in God's revelation, (2) illuminated by Christ's light, and (3) delivered with the conviction that the message is God's message for his people.

By adhering to this divine mandate, all preachers can guide their congregations safely through the moral complexities of our time, leading them toward a life that reflects God's righteousness and love, and toward scriptural holiness.

Copyright © - 2025
Robert Wingfield Kirby III, D.Min.

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

Psalm 119:105—NIV