



## [Proverbs 14:12](#)

(12) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

*King James Version*

There is only one "end" no matter how many "ways" that man might take. There is an American way, a Japanese way, and a German way. There can be family ways. People can walk all kinds of ways, but there is an end to all of them, and that is "the way of death."

In his ignorance and [presumptuousness](#), mankind has thought that any old way will do. What [God](#) wants us to understand is that may be true, but it all depends on what we want to produce at the end. What do we want to produce at the end of our lives? If we want to produce the same things that God wants to produce, then we will walk, conduct our lives, a certain way. And that way, of course, is the way of God.

Thus, in this verse, He is giving us an overview of life. The conclusion He wants us to take from it is that we should have a long-range view of life; He wants us to understand and conduct our lives according to this principle: It is what happens at the end that counts.

Present appearances can be deceiving. There are people who may look good, respectable, discreet, and civil. Then there are others who do not look so credible. Yet, in the end, the ones who are not currently respectable may turn out to be the ones who have [eternal life](#), whereas the ones who appear good and civil may be the ones who end up failing.

If we had looked at Solomon at the beginning of his [relationship with God](#) and then at someone thought to be a harlot (like the woman who anointed Jesus' feet with precious oil), on the surface who would we think had the better chance? Present appearances are deceiving. God says to aim for the end. "Seek first the [Kingdom of God](#)" is the

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unspoken directive here.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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