

Sunday Sermon Recap

Full Service Link: [Watch on YouTube](#)

Sermon Only Link: <https://youtu.be/NJcox0-HeRM>

September 13, 2026 / Harry Sexton, Associate Pastor / Laveen Baptist Church

Summary and Highlights

Opening Illustration

Pastor Harry opened with a humorous (and fictional) story about “Louie,” a man drowning in debt who faked his own death with help from a chemist neighbor. At the viewing, two creditors said they would have forgiven the debt just to keep him alive... while the third threatened to stab the “corpse.” Louie cracked one eye open and whispered, “You, I’ll pay.”

The point: we often get unintended consequences—and every choice carries them.

Consequences of Sin

Key text: Proverbs 16:25

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.”

- Every person is on a path they have chosen (Joshua 24:15). Jesus is the Way (John 14:6).
- What “feels right” or “seems right” is not new—it’s the repeated refrain of Judges: “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”
- Self-confidence divorced from God’s Word is deceptive (Isaiah 5:21). Relying on appearance instead of revelation leads to ruin.
- The ultimate payoff is fixed: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)—not merely physical death, but eternal separation from God.

Proverbs 21:10 zooms in: “A wicked person desires evil; he has no consideration for his neighbor.”

Sin reaches the inner life. The wicked pursue evil; it is “me first.” This directly opposes God’s command to love our neighbor as ourselves (an action, not a feeling). Relational ties are severed when self rules.

Consequences of Righteousness

Key text: Proverbs 11:30

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.”

- Fruit is the natural outcome of a healthy tree—and it is meant for others, not the tree itself. Its purpose is to produce more trees.
- Righteousness begins with faith (Romans 3:22) and shows itself in righteous living (1 John 3:7). An orange tree cannot produce bananas.
- The “tree of life” echoes Eden and Revelation 22 (leaves for the healing of the nations). A righteous life leaves a life-giving legacy that points others to eternal life.
- “He who wins souls is wise” shifts the picture to intentional pursuit—evangelism and discipleship through truth and love. Your personal story of what God has done is often more powerful than any theology course.
- Treasures in heaven are people (Matthew 6:19-20). “Make heaven crowded” is impossible—there is room for all—but the call is clear.

Proverbs 12:28

“In the path of righteousness is life, but another path leads to death.”

The path of righteousness is marked by:

- Consistent obedience (James 1:22 – be doers, not hearers only)
- God-honoring speech that brings healing (Proverbs 12:18)

- Compassion for others
- Humble dependence on the Lord (Psalm 23)

The Binary Choice

God does not drop us into a rat maze and say “figure it out.” He clearly shows the two paths and their outcomes:

- **Path of righteousness** → life, fruit that benefits others, eternal treasures (people), and the privilege of being a “tree of life.”
- **Path that “seems right” / “feels right” / “me first”** → death and eternal separation from God.

There is no middle ground. This current culture loves gray areas; but God only recognizes our actions as truth or lies, righteousness or sin. Markers of the deadly path include self-reliance, persistent unrepentant sin, and rejection of God’s Word. The narrow road leads to life (Matthew 7:13-14).

Closing Challenge

Choose this day which path you will walk. The consequences are not surprises—Solomon (under the Spirit’s inspiration) has already told us. Place your trust in Christ, who lived, died, and rose so that we might become trees of life that produce lasting fruit and win souls.

Heavenly Father, thank You for making the paths and their consequences crystal clear. Keep us from the way that merely “seems right.” Make us trees of life whose fruit points others to You forever. Amen.

Key Takeaway

Every choice carries consequences. The path that merely “seems right” ends in death and separation from God. The path of righteousness leads to life, lasting fruit, and the privilege of pointing others to Christ. Choose today which path you will walk.

Plan of Salvation

If you have not received Jesus as your Savior, here is a guide:

The plan of salvation begins with recognizing that God is holy and every person is a sinner, separated from Him and deserving His righteous judgment (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23). Because of His great love, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who lived a sinless life, died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, and rose bodily from the dead, securing victory over sin and death (Isaiah 53:5–6; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; 2 Corinthians 5:21). The Bible teaches that salvation is by God’s grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, not by good works (Ephesians 2:8–9; Titus 3:5). God calls every person to repent—turn from sin—and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; Romans 10:9–10, 13). Everyone who genuinely trusts in Christ is forgiven, declared righteous, born again by the Holy Spirit, adopted into God’s family, and given eternal life, which is evidenced by a life of growing obedience and perseverance in faith (John 1:12–13; John 3:3–7, 16; Romans 5:1; 8:1, 14–17; James 2:17; Philippians 1:6).

A Prayer of Salvation

Heavenly Father,

I know that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. I believe that Jesus Christ is Your Son, that He lived a sinless life, died on the cross for my sins, and rose again on the third day. Today I turn from my sin and place my trust in Jesus Christ alone as my Savior and Lord. Please forgive my sins, give me a new heart, and help me follow You all the days of my life. Thank You for Your grace, Your mercy, and the gift of eternal life. I confess Jesus as my Lord and gladly receive Him by faith.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.