The Elephant Shrew

The Elephant Shrew, sometimes called by its African name, Sengi, is a tiny mammal who is always hungry. It eats small, fast-moving insects on the African plains. Fortunately, God has given the Elephant Shrew quite a lot of speed of its own. For its size, the Elephant Shrew is nearly twice as fast as a cheetah. But it is a very small animal, and small things can create barriers for it. There are also many predators who would look on the Elephant Shrew as a good snack. The thick grass of the African plains can slow it down a lot. But the Elephant shrew has a plan. It creates a network of paths through the grass, along which it can run at full speed, escape its predators, and catch grasshoppers and other insects. But these paths have to be maintained, so the Elephant shrew spends about half of its time clearing the paths so that it can run freely. As long as it sticks to its trails, keeping them open and clear, those paths will keep the Elephant Shrew safe and fed.

Like the Elephant Shrew, we need to stick to the right path to be safe and content. But we don’t have the task of maintaining those paths. Right here in Proverbs 2, God assures us that He will maintain the paths: “He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.” The path to follow, of course, is His Word. Which we don’t need to worry about preserving. God keeps the path open for us. All we need to do is follow.

**Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. –Psalm 119:104-105**

**Proverbs 2:1-9**

**My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;**

**So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;**

**Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;**

**If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;**

**Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.**

**For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**

**He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.**

**He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.**

**Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.**