

The Way: Right And Wrong

Introduction

- A. Life is filled with decisions. These choices are inescapable. That which we choose largely determines our character and our future. What a person is today, is the result of past decisions. No one can plead neutrality.
- B. The Bible reminds us of the necessity of making correct decisions. We are responsible to seek out and to choose the truth and what the truth means in the practical facets of daily life. Only through the truth can we be free.
- C. The Scripture instructs us in these important areas of responsibility and opportunity by pointing out that there is a right and a wrong way of life. We are reminded that if we rely simply on our own mind and heart - go our own way - we will be in trouble*

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12 (Proverbs 21:2)

I. The Wrong Way - Described.

Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat.
Matthew 7:13

Destruction and misery are in their ways. Romans 3:16

Observation: These verses teach us, in unmistakable terms, of the result of following our own reason, emotions and desires. The "broad way" is that which looks "reasonable" and "acceptable" to the person who has not been taught the truth. To live in this way will end in destruction and misery. These words not only refer to the problems in this life but also to the life such a one must live after death.

II. The Right Way - Provided.

A. The right way is related to a Person, John 14:6.

Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.

Observation: Here we are reminded that Christianity revolves around the person of Jesus Christ. Our relationship to Him is the central issue in all of life. Only He is the way - not the Church, nor a good moral life, nor sacrificial service to mankind.

B. The right way is related to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, Hebrews 10:19,20.

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh.

Observation: Jesus Christ came into the world as our Representative. By dying for us He has made it possible for those who believe upon Him to be forgiven, accepted by God, and assured of heaven.

III. The Right Way - Explained

A. It is a way - related to God, Matthew 22:16. (Acts 18:25,26)

And they sent out unto Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that Thou art true and teaches the way of God in truth, neither carest Thou for any man, for Thou regardest not the person of Man.

Observation: This compliment, paid to the Lord Jesus by His enemies, points out the goal that God had in mind in sending His Son into the world. All of this was done that men might be redeemed. The Lord Jesus earns to reconcile us to God (II Cor. 5:18,19)•

B. It is a way - related to life, Acts 2:28.

Thou has made known to me the ways of life. Thou shalt make me full of joy with Thy countenance*

Observation: The word "way" is used here in the plural to designate what characterizes the "way" to God or what one must do, by the grace of God, to be right with God. Such "ways" would be repentance, faith, godliness, love, hope, service and such virtues harmonious with the person and Word of God* Man is by nature dead to God. In Christ we have everlasting life.

C. It is a way - related to salvation* Acts 16:16,17.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by sooth-saying. The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

Observation: Salvation is a "way" in that it has to do with a "way" of believing, a "way" of living, a "way" of evaluating life, and most particularly the "way" of a right relationship with God.

D. It is a way - related to peace, Luke 1:79. (Romans 3:17)

To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Observation: This comment, given by Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, describes the benefits of the grace of God given through the person of Jesus Christ. He came to bring peace. Through receiving Jesus Christ we have the gift of peace and can then live with the peace of God in our lives.

E. It is a way - related to truth, II Peter 2:2.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of idiom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Observation: This verse, describing false teachers, reminds us that one can only come to God and live correctly before God - by knowing and doing the truth. This alone must form the basis of our daily decisions*

Conclusion: A person can be hopelessly lost - without the right roadmap.