

TWO WAYS TO TRAVEL

Scripture:

Jeremiah 21:8

Introduction

There are many pathways available for every individual to walk, but all inevitably lead into the ways that I would like you to consider. God sets before everyone two ways to travel: all must walk therein. To walk one path is to receive "the gift of God--eternal life". To walk the other is to receive "the wages of sin--death".

As Joshua cried, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve."

Joshua 24:15

even so each of us must choose what path we wish to follow and walk therein.

I. The way of life

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:29

A. Self denial

1. Christ did not promise a life of ease

- a. A life of discipline
- b. A life of rugged individualism
- c. Voluntarily waiving certain rights and privileges

2. John the Baptist

a. Of the Aaronic line of priesthood

1. Could have enjoyed all rights and privileges thereof
2. Could have lived in reasonable comfort

b. Chose to deny self

1. Raiment of camels hair, leathern girdle

I. The way of life

A. Self denial

2. John the Baptist

b. Chose to deny self

2. Could have enjoyed fine linen
3. Diet of locusts and wild honey
4. Could have enjoyed portions of the sacrifices, and the shew-bread
5. These were his rights
6. Denied himself and gained a message and eternal life

B. Cross bearing

1. Even Christ was not above this
2. Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

3. Must Jesus bear the cross alone
And all the world go free?
No there's a cross for every one
And there's a cross for me

C. Following Christ

1. Not always easy

Following Christ may involve heart-ache, personal loss, and suffering. It may involve walking the rocky crags along the precipitous cliffs of human experience. It may involve walking in the valley of the shadow of death, but the Saviour still leads.

2. Leads to a eternal life and reward

Be thou faithfull unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

And God shall wipe all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Revelation 21:4

II. The way of death

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

Proverbs 14:12

A. Materialism--avarice

1. King Midas of Greek mythology

- a. His avarice led him to ask that everything he touched would turn to gold
- b. This soon ceased to be a blessing and became a curse
 1. Food turned to gold
 2. Could not eat or drink

2. Judas

B. Self will

1. Saul

- a. Had God's blessing
- b. Lost blessing because of self will
 1. Would not follow God's commandments
 2. Willfull transgression brought destruction

2. He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

Proverbs 29:1

C. Self indulgence--pleasure seeking

1. Noahic civilization

- a. Wanted to enjoy all the good things of life
- b. Indulged themselves in pleasure
- c. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away....

Matthew 24:38-39

II. The way of death

C. Self indulgence--Pleasure seeking

2. Modern men

a. LSD and drug cults

b. Crowds seeking kicks

3. There is a day of reckoning

D. Godlessness

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.

Romans 1:28