

*So take diligent heed to yourselves to love the LORD your God.*

**Joshua 23:11**

## Store In My Heart Galatians 5:19-21

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul reminds of his teaching regarding things of the world in these verses. Listing the deeds of the flesh will not keep us from getting caught up in the wickedness of the world but keeping them in mind will help us be aware and watchful as we go about our daily life. Each of these have consequences both now and in eternity. Our need is to change course before we get caught up in the temptation these things exude. If we keep our spiritual eyes open, can avoid these pitfalls of life.



# Which Path are You Walking?

**Dan Henderson**

*"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: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." **Matthew 7:13-14***

To enter the kingdom we must begin life anew. The life we begin at physical birth is not enough to assure us a home with God in eternity. Jesus told Nicodemus *"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* **John 3:3**

We are born into this world pure and innocent. We continue in that condition until we reach the stage of our mental development where we know right from wrong. When we do wrong even though we know it is wrong we are mentally capable of determining right. From this point we are accountable for our actions, for although we could do right we may choose to do wrong. This is the age of accountability. We are developed enough to make an informed choice. When we hear the Gospel we are made aware of our accountability to God. He holds each of us responsible for our actions. (**Matthew 12:36; Romans 2:5-6**) Once we reach accountability we choose the pathway we will walk in life.

At this stage of our development we decide whether to serve God or Satan. (**Matthew 6:24**) If we choose wrong we follow the path of Satan. It is easy to find, just follow the crowd. This is the path walked by the majority of mankind since Adam and Eve. If you choose to do right you must change the path you walk. You must crucify the old man. (**Romans 6:6**) This means getting rid of the fleshly concerns in life. (**Galatians 5:24**)

Our focus is no longer here and now. We must focus on the hereafter. We are no longer concerned with physical things such as houses, lands, jobs, food, clothing. We must concentrate our efforts on spiritual things such as Bible study, worship, teaching the lost, restoring the erring.

This pathway is not as popular. It is strait (restricted) and narrow. It is only found in God's word. When we decide to follow the path of right, we must go to the only source of righteousness, God. We find Him when we read and study His Word. He is revealed in the pages of the Old Testament. The path of righteousness is laid out plainly in the New

Testament. We begin our journey when we humbly submit ourselves to His authority in obedience.

The Word says, *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* **Hebrews 11:6**. Jesus told us we must repent. (**Luke 13:3**) Of what do we need to repent? Remember, up until the time we chose to do right we had followed self and the world. We must now change from that path to follow the path Jesus walked as our example. (**1Peter 2:21; John 4:34; 6:38**) Repentance is a change of heart and action. We change from serving self to serving God. Repentance is that which causes us to stop doing anything wrong and begin doing everything right.

The next step to the path of right is confessing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. (**Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10**) This verbal confession at the beginning of our journey is to become a visible confession of Christ in our lives. (**Galatians 2:20**)

Each of these steps are necessary to reach the path of right, but they alone will not get us there. Remember, Jesus told Nicodemus a new birth was needed to enter the kingdom. (**John 3:3**) He further explains this birth is of the water and the Spirit.

*"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* **John 3:5**

A new birth requires a death. Our old man must die that the new man may live. Romans 6:4 begins *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:..."*. Paul told the Galatian brethren he had been crucified with Christ **Galatians 2:20**. **Galatians 5:24** says *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* **Romans 6:4** continues, saying *"...that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* We are therefore born again in baptism. This step directs our spiritual feet down the path of righteousness and puts one on the narrow path which leads to life. If we continue to follow this path we will enter Heaven and dwell with God for eternity. *"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: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."* **Matthew 7:13-14**

If we stray from the path into sin, we will only find the broad way leading to destruction.

On which path do you walk?

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

## For Our Information

**Sue Soliday** is recovering from colon cancer surgery. Results from testing should be back this week.

**JoBeth Henderson's** chemo treatments will increase in dosage and be every third Tuesday for the next few months.

**Deberah Brooks** has knee surgery scheduled in April.

**Paula Laubach's** grandniece's baby has improved and is home.

**Tommy Robinson** is still waiting for his radiation treatment.

The **Simpson** family is out of town this weekend.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 47** Wednesday - **Revelation 12**

**Spring Forward Next Weekend, March 8.**