

## **“A WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT”**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The word “way” is used *literally* and *figuratively* in the Bible. It is used literally when describing the path where people journey, and figuratively when describing the conduct or manner of life of those on such a journey. This conduct can be good or wicked. Cf Psa. 1:6. Ways that “seem” right may be wrong. Prov.14:12.

The word “way” is used hundreds of times in the scripture, and has multiple applications. In this lesson we shall concentrate on the way that men travel in their journey to their eternal destiny.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, the LORD’S WAY IS THE RIGHT WAY TO LIVE.**

A. God’s “way” is to DO what He commands in scripture, so as to please Him.

1. In the Old Testament multitudes refused to walk in God’s way. Gen. 6;1-5, 12
2. God is pleased when people walk in HIS ways. Gen.18:19; Psa. 86:11
3. God’s way is to keep His commandments. Psa. 18:30; 37:23; 119:26,27, 30,32

B. God’s way to heaven is DECLARED in scripture.

1. John, the forerunner for the Lord, came to prepare for “the way of the Lord.” Matt. 3:2; cf John 14:6
2. The Lord’s way is the path that pleases God and leads to eternal life. Isa. 2:3
  - a. It is the way of truth. John 14:6; 2 Pet. 2:2, 15, 21
  - b. It is often **called** “the way” in the New Testament. Acts 9:2; 16:17; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22

#### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, MAN’S WAYS ARE WRONG AND LEAD TO RUIN.**

A. Man, left to himself, cannot KNOW the right way to live. Jer. 10:23; 18:15; Isa. 55:8-9

1. What “seems” right to man is subjective, without any objective standard, as he does what he “feels like” doing. Acts 26:9
2. We are warned to **not** do something because it may seem right. Deut. 12:8; Judges 21:25; Prov. 12:15

B. Man’s ways lead to eternal death. Prov. 14:12

1. God sets before us a choice—to **live** or to **die** eternally. Jer. 21:8
2. The 2 ways are contrasted by the Lord. Matt. 7:13-14
  - a. The narrow way leads to LIFE. v. 13
    - 1) It must be “entered” or “found” by one who seeking it. v.13
    - 2) It is “strait” [s-t-r-a-i-t], meaning difficult, with some hardships in traveling.
    - 3) It is a “narrow” way, suggesting there are dangers on both side so as to keep us IN the way, as we are enclosed with the Lord’s word.
    - 4) It is the way that leads to “life” eternal.
    - 5) it is traveled only by a “few” compared to those who refuse to walk therein.
  - b. The broad way is a complete contrast. v. 14
    - 1) It is broad enough to welcome all who refuse the narrow way.
    - 2) It involves “many” in contrast with a “few.”
      - a) Many chose to corrupt themselves in Noah’s day, while only a “few”walked with God. 1 Pet. 3:20
      - b) Multitudes today choose to do evil rather than good. Ex. 23:2
    - 3) The broad way leads to “death” instead of “life.”

### **III. 3<sup>Rd</sup>, THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF MAN THAT BRING DEATH.**

- A. One way is simply to **reject** the gospel and remain lost. John 12:48
- B. Another way of man is to obey the gospel and then **depart** from it. 2 Pet. 2:20-22
- C. To live a life of **indulgence** in the works of the flesh will lead to death. Rom. 6:21
- D. Still another way of man is to **worship** according to the *dictates of men*.
  - 1. Cain worshiped God by offering a vegetable sacrifice instead of an animal offering.
  - 2. Nadab and Abihu in the O. T. offered strange fire in their worship which was strange fire to God, as He had not commanded it, and they died because of it.
  - 3. To worship idols, even if in sincerity, does not please God. Isa. 65:2
  - 4. To worship according to the doctrines of men is vain worship. Matt. 15:9
    - a. To add a common meal to the Lord's Supper is vain worship.
    - b. To add mechanical instrumental music to singing is vain worship.

#### **CONCLUSION**

I. What **way** are you traveling—RIGHT NOW?

- A. If you living without God you are traveling the road that will lead to hell, and you need to confess faith in Christ as God's Son, repent and be immersed in water to be saved.
  - B. If you have left the right way, you too are endangering your soul, and you need to repent and seek God's forgiveness in prayer.
- II. If you are in the wrong way, we plead with you to change the direction of your life, right now, as we stand together and sing the invitation song.

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