

Proclaiming the Gospel

Message
of
Jesus Christ

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

February, 2017

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. IX.02

Going *The Way* of the Cross!

Where is our joy and anticipation that we used to hear sung? "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus, one look at His dear face, all sorrow will erase. . . ." Where is our joy in walking with the Lord – all *The Way*, walking in His footsteps, knowing His presence, His peace, His glory, His mercy, His grace?

Happiness is thought of today in terms of what *feels* good, an easy life, a life without responsibilities, without pain, without hurts. Happiness is thought of in terms of cheapness, not standing for anything, just going with the flow, making decisions that will cost nothing in one's life – but will cost one's life through all eternity.

People turn to mentoring today. They are not seeking the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible, that will lead them to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; they are not "**Going *The Way* of the Cross**" of Jesus Christ. People want programs to follow; they want to be part of a group where they are seen as one with the group. Do we not hear of the learning institutions for all ages using group learning so no one is seen, where all blend together and people are not encouraged to develop their personal God-given gifts? Are people being suppressed to become what the world, Satan, wants that they might be led astray?

Is group work not used many times to intimidate and pressure one **not** to take a stand for the Lord Jesus Christ and a life of holiness? Are they not led to walk with those that may be walking on the broad road instead of the narrow road – of which the Lord teaches that His people **are to walk** (Mt 7.13)? Does being placed in group learning **not** many times work against the person who desires to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ when placed in a group that weakens their convictions to walk with the Lord Jesus at any price – using ridicule, pressure, rejection, or another form of coercion? How many times have we heard, "What is wrong with you? Everyone else is going down this other road, the broad road; do you not see that you are the only one trying to go 'that' other way?" (Mt 7.13, 14)

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.

The **godly** life will be lived on the Highway of Holiness. This is not a route on which you choose when and where to get on and when and where you exit – to enjoy the worldly ways. It is a road on which one must remain; one must stay on the Highway of Holiness to live the **godly** life; it is "**Going *The Way* of the Cross**" that leads home. It will lead you to an eternal rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The **godly** life is one to be lived for the glory of the Lord. It is "Living for Jesus." "**Going *The Way* of the Cross**" is that you shall know the peace that passes all understanding – all for the glory of the Lord (Phi 4.7).

The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to know His love, His joy, and His peace – a life of holiness in Him. Pray this day to know Him and the fullness of His love for you,
a life of peace and joy in Him –
in the midst of where you are –
in the midst of "Going *The Way* of the Cross."

Mrs. Bettie L. Lowery, M.R.E., Deaconess, The Rev. Mrs. Dr. C. S. Cole, Pastor, Ret.
Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Has it not been said that we must use contemporary language when speaking to people so they can understand the words to mean what they want them to mean and in the context of their “group”? Interesting that “Mentor” goes back anywhere from 1800 – to 3000 years to the time of *Iliad and Odyssey*. Just how contemporary is that! Why have we failed to turn a deaf ear to Satan? We have heard his voice louder and louder, stronger and stronger, from all directions.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves (Mt 7.15).

Do we not live in a world in which people are not encouraged to learn, to study, to grow in the Lord Jesus Christ in their daily lives, to study His way? Are we encouraged to recall the past triumphs of that great cloud of witnesses and to carry on in the Word of the Lord to accomplish for the Lord Jesus Christ that to which we are called (Heb 12.1)? No! We are hearing, by actions and/or words, to forget the past, the Truth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Bible, the great saints through all the ages that have trod before us giving us the courage to follow on in the Lord and to experience the history of the saints in our own lives.

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope (Rom 15.4).

I have heard said in “churches” that mentoring programs are available to experience a goodly life, experience being goodly. “Come and enjoy! Come, **you have choices!**” It is where any and all choices are good choices, just choose the one that best fits what makes you comfortable and happy; no learning is needed. You have choices to believe what you want and do what you want, Satan says.

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know [*these things*] before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and [*in*] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him [*be*] glory both now and for ever. Amen (II P 3.17, 18).

The Holy Bible is written using the word *disciple* – in the Old and the New Testaments (Isa 8.16; Mt 9.10). *Disciple* means a “learner,” one who learns from the Lord Jesus Christ (II Tim 3.14). Options are not offered for the disciple. There is but one way when following Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Isa 30.21; Mt 7.14; Lk 14.26, 27, 33).

A disciple of Jesus Christ will read the Holy Bible, will learn of Him by reading the Holy Bible; **a disciple will walk with the Lord Jesus Christ**. This walk is a way of life. There are not options to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ when it is comfortable; it is a walk at all times, walking the *Via Dolorosa*, “**Going The Way of the Cross**” (See 09/16 *Message*).

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned [*them*];

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (II Ti 3.14, 15).

Walking with the Lord Jesus Christ is a walk of trust, trusting Him with your life, listening to His voice as you walk with Him that you may know what it is He wants of you, what He wants you to do moment by moment. It is trusting Him when you stumble, when you fall, when you *feel* all alone on the *Via Dolorosa*.

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths (Pro 3.5, 6).

It is seeking the Lord while He may be found as you stumble, seeking His face in all you do: “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near” (Isa 55.6). It is trusting that the Lord is with you through it all that you might rise to newness of life in Him – when you are walking in obedience to Him.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: 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. (Rom 6.4).

Walking with the Lord Jesus Christ is knowing that His grace is sufficient on the journey of life with Him, that He is there for you (II Cor 12.9). It is knowing that,

He is mighty God. He is mighty God.
He is there on your behalf. He is there for you.
He is there for you. He is mighty God.

drc

It is knowing that in the abyss, He is there for you. He is there with you. It is not about whether you *feel* His presence; it is fact. He is with you when you are walking with Him and seeking His face.

The Bible makes it clear that the walk with Jesus Christ is **not** about choices. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt 6.33; Also see Jn 8.12; 12.35; I Jn 1.7; Eph 2.10; Col 2.6; I Th 4.1).

A disciple will walk with Jesus Christ. How many times do we hear, “I do not read the Bible; I don’t have to. I know that I am alright with Him. He’s got my back covered.” Can you imagine a child saying, “I know it all. I do not need to know what my parents consider truth. I am alright with them in what I do my way”?

There is a song that says, “The Cross before me, the world behind me . . .” “**Going The Way of the Cross**” is looking unto Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12.1, 2); it is leaving behind the world and Satan. It is seeking the Lord and letting go of all that is not of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is living a **godly** life and leaving behind the goodly ways. It is letting go of all that is not of Jesus Christ – whatever may lie before us.

How strong is our love for Jesus, our conviction that there is but one way, and that it is in Jesus Christ? There is a hymn that is about “Living for Jesus, a life that is true . . .”

The Way of the Cross is the narrow way that leads to Heaven. All other routes will lead you to hell. Oh, it may look so “goodly,” but goodliness is **NOT godliness**. *The Way* of the Cross in Jesus Christ leads to the fullness of joy in Him, in His love and grace and mercy, in His way that leads to life.