

The Road to Eternal Life

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† Eternal Walk
≡ MINISTRY

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April 2020



**Printed by:
Minuteman Press,
917-A West 7th St.
Frederick, Md. 21701
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www.frederick.minutemanpress.com**

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The Road to Eternal Life

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. (Matthew 7:13-14) The narrow road to life is narrow because most people don't find it because they don't search for God's truth. The people on the narrow road to life have the pure Light of God guiding their way to eternal life, while the broad road is filled with darkness and the people have know direction to eternal life.

Salvation through Christ

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 8:23) Every human being that lived on this earth has sinned and falls short of the glory of God. No one can save themselves because without Christ all our works are like filthy rags. *All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all*

shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. (Isaiah 64:6)

Only Christ can save us because he lived a sinless life and became the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Christ died in the flesh for our sins, arose three day later, and for forty days was seen by 500 people, including his apostles. After 40 days his apostle's witnesses his ascent into Heaven. Seeing Jesus alive and his ascent into Heaven gave the apostles the courage to live for Christ, and they were all martyred for spreading the Gospel except for the apostle John. *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)*

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (Matthew 28:18) Since Jesus endured death on the cross, the Father has given Christ the power to intercede for us and to forgive our sins. *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right*

hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. (Romans 8:34) Christ forgives our sins if our hearts seek forgiveness. Christians hate sin and fight through the power of God to overcome sinful behavior. It's good we have forgiveness because we all have a sinful nature, and no matter how much we hate sin we cannot be perfect. But the good news is that Christ knows our hearts and presents us to the Father as perfect. It's through Christ and his sacrifice for our sins, interceding for us with forgiveness, that he can present us to the Father as sinless.

To receive Christ as our Savior we must believe that he died for our sins and only Christ can save us. We read scriptures about salvation through Christ, and if we truly believe in our hearts we will have the desire to repent and turn toward our new life guided by Christ. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The Holy Spirit

When we read the Word and believe with a repentant heart, we can show our belief by baptism. *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)* When Peter witnessed for Christ he told the people this verse and 5000 believed, repented, and were baptized on the day of Pentecost.

When our hearts believe, we repent, and we are baptized washing away our sins, then we receive the Holy Spirit.. *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. (John 14:15-17* The Holy Spirit lives within us and the Holy Spirit connects us to Christ and the Father. *But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.*

He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13) Christ speaks to the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit speaks to us, placing Christ's thoughts into our minds. The Word is the language of God and the more we know the Word the more we hear Christ through the Spirit. Many times the Lord has placed his thoughts in my mind, when teaching Bible classes, when preaching, when counseling, and when reading the Word. It is important to ask for the Lord's help and guidance. Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

The Holy Spirit changes us by filling us with God's love, peace, and joy, and the indwelling Spirit means we belong to Christ. *Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in*

our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21-22) God loves us and he puts his Spirit in us so we can be one with Christ.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5: 22-23) The fruit of the Spirit is the character of God that lives within us and changes us to live as the image of God. *So God created mankind in his own image in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.* (Genesis 1:27) We are created in the image of God, and the Spirit changes us to live the image of God.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. (Romans 8:9) The Spirit guides our thoughts and changes our hearts, and we live by the Spirit and not by the sinful cravings of the flesh. We learn

to walk in the ways of God, with Godly wisdom and understanding.

Once we receive the Holy Spirit we are destined to conform to the image of His Son. *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*(Romans 8:29) All that except Christ are the ones God foreknew, he never takes away our free will, and we are predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. Once we accept Christ, God is molding us to the mind of Christ. *Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.* (1 Corinthians 2:16) Our minds are renewed to be filled with God's love and to think with Godly wisdom.

Renewing the Mind

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good,

pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)
God created us with a mind that can be renewed, which means the neural structure of our brains can be rewired. What we think about the most takes the most real-estate in our brains and what we think about the least takes the least real-estate in our brains. For example if we make a path through the woods and walk on that path day after day, eventually the path gets worn down to a clear dirt pathway, and if we start another path and walk on it day after day, and stop walking on the old path, the old path will eventually grow over and disappear. This is how the brain rewires and it's called neuroplasticity. So we are our own brain surgeons because we can rewire our brains by changing our thoughts.

Our mind is renewed by changing our thoughts however our thoughts normally reflect what's programmed in our brains. Our thoughts are spiritual and with the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit we start changing to new Godly thoughts, even

though our brains are wired to the pattern of the world. Our spiritual thoughts come through the Spirit and are separate from our brain, but our spiritual thoughts and our physical brain are connected by quantum physics. The Spirit gives us the power to override our sinful worldly thoughts and replace them with Godly thoughts.

The Lord's plan for changing our thoughts is to be in a church family, the Word, and prayer. As our thoughts change, our brain rewires because we create new thoughts and stop old thoughts. As our brains are renewing, the things of God become more natural. This is a gift from God that we can rewire our minds to be more Christ-like and become the person God created us to be.

Freedom in Christ

Many worldly people think they will lose their freedom if they except Christ and follow the Spirit's guidance. This is a favorite lie from Satan, because the truth is Christ sets us free. *It is for freedom that*

Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (Galatians 5:1) Granted many people are fully convinced they are free and comfortable believing Satan's lies, but true freedom and eternal life only come from Christ

For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4) The Lord gives us power over the world, meaning we are guided by the Spirit and not by the world. We minister to the world, and our thoughts are more on things above than on things of the world. *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)* We interface to the world through the Spirit, understanding the world from the spiritual perspective. After all everything is controlled from the spiritual, our soul is spiritual, Satan and his demons are spiritual, and God is spiritual and sovereign over everything.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10) As our mind renews we become more Christ-like having a more fulfilling life that gets better the longer we walk with the Lord. A life with a heart filled with God's love, peace, and joy, from Christ through the Spirit. The more of God's love in our hearts the less fear we have from the world from Satan. *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. (1 John 4:18)*

Christians are the most fulfilled content people on the planet, we are filled with love, peace and joy, we don't live in fear, we know Heaven is our home, and the Lord protects us from the evil one. *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. (2 Thessalonians 3:3)* We are not afraid of physical death because our spiritual soul lives forever. *So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is*

sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:42-44) Our new body is called a spiritual body because it craves things of the Spirit, just as our earthly body craves things of the earth.

The Wide Road to Destruction

Scripture tell us there are many that enter the wide gate and walk on the wide road. This is because they are following Satan's lies: they don't believe in God, they think everyone goes to Heaven, they think there are many roads to Heaven, they don't believe in hell, they don't believe the Bible, they hope their good out-weighs their bad, they think they are a good person, they live by their own truth, or they never think about eternity. In my years in ministry I have found a large number of people that fit into these categories. With this many lies by Satan it's no wonder the road to destruction is broad.

The most common lie from Satan that I have heard is that people don't believe the truth of the Bible. The amazing thing is that most of these people have never taken the time to read the Word, yet they have come to a conclusion. *For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* (2 Peter 1:21) The Spirit takes the words from Christ and places them in our thoughts. *For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.* (1 Corinthians 2:11) It's through the Holy Spirit that men wrote the Bible, with over 300 prophecies about Jesus and all have come true in every detail, hundreds of years later. There are other prophecies in the Bible, many in Revelations concerning end-times which are now coming true. Since God is our judge, it makes sense that he would give his Word to know what his judgment is based on.

Conclusions

So walk on the Narrow Road to life and know Heaven is your home. Walking with the Lord is not difficult but is peaceful and joyful. And with a heart filled with God's love, Satan's fear goes away. *If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*" (John 8:31-32) Live by the truth and be free in Christ. *It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'*" (Romans 14:11) Christ is our judge and he is called the Word of God when he returns. *He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.* (Revelations 19:13) Christ returns to judge the world, and his judgment is based on the Truth from the Word of God. When Christ returns and judges the world, everyone will know God's truth, but it will be too late for eternal life. Now is the time to accept Christ, your eternity depends on it.

