

**General Topics :: No Direction****No Direction - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/4 8:49**

I have been studying a bit on direction and have seen two clear paths that the Word of God lays before us. The path of the wicked and the Path of the Righteous. Both paths lead to somewhere and both paths have their rewards and consequences.

The path of the wicked is a slippery slope of pleasure and temporary fixes to long term issues. When we chose sin, we are indeed choosing the path of the wicked and must repent or get back on the right path (turn around if you will). Christ says there are two gates and two paths the Wide gate and path and the Narrow gate and path. Many will follow the path of the wide gate, it's easy and doesn't effect how we live other than the sin we deeply live in (destroying our lives) So our reward is up front and easy to obtain however the consequences far out weigh the quick and easy rewards we receive.

The other option is the Path of Righteousness and it too has consequence and reward. The narrow gate is difficult and filled with many bumps and obstacles that the enemy has so mischeviously placed along the way to draw us away from our intended path or goal. It's consequences include persecution and trails of every kind from a society that ultimately walks the wide path and hates the narrow one. Death to self, Loving your enemies, and giving up everything in this life. However the rewards are Eternal and last forever and they are the greatest of all pleasures to be in the presences of the Living God.

The direction of your life determines the destination of your life. I pulled most of these thoughts from Psalms 1 and the proverbs. Also Christ Jesus' teachings on the gates and paths.

Anyone have anything they wish to add? I would love to read your insight on direction.

God Bless,
Matthew

Re: No Direction - posted by enid, on: 2012/7/4 9:02

No doubt, we all know the way is narrow, but we want to straddle both the broad way and the narrow way.

Not possible. It is either one path or the other, not both.

We want the pleasures of this world and all it has to offer, yet, somehow, we hope God is ok with this, and will let us into heaven at the end of our lives.

That cannot be. It has to be one or the other.

Re: No Direction - posted by BonnieJane (), on: 2012/7/4 9:28

You layed it out very clearly. Satan is always there to blur the clarity, but by God's grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit we can chose wisely and walk the straight and narrow.

Romans 12:1 came to mind.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

I love the phrase, reasonable service.

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/4 14:43

As I thought about it a bit more I realized that the paths consequences and rewards were opposite. It's either enjoy the pleasures of this world now or enjoy the pleasures of eternity later.

While also we risk the consequences of persecution now they are but light affliction in comparison to the alternative. I also want to say that this doesn't mean there aren't pleasures on this earth we can enjoy now on the earth but these pleasures are within the bounds of God's word.

Satan always tried to deter us from our intended path and knows the human nature very well that he attacks and retreats with expert precision.

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/4 16:30

Hi! Mguldner

Jus' lettin' yuh know that I visited your Site and it is very nice. Your commentary there sorta' gives yuh that 'comfortable' feeling when reading. Very inviting.

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by mguldner on 2012/7/4 11:43:25
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Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/4 17:30

Thanks for the encouragement and feed back. I haven't posted on the site a while but definitely intend to start that up again.

It seems it's apart of the path that I am on and the ministry God has for me. I am still to some degree trying to figure out how God wants to use me but I do know I need to stay on the Narrow if my desire is to Glorify God.

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/4 19:04

Hi! 'Mguldner'

Yes, it can be difficult to publish to a Site everyday. It's good that you are not anxious about things seeming to get behind on that. It's far better to compose from out your alive journey and daily experience than to publish inconsequential musings.

You wrote, "I need to stay on the Narrow if my desire is to Glorify God". This had me asking myself, "I wonder if this person is speaking about the 'Narrow PATH' or the 'Narrow GATE'?"

Could you please tell me which?

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/5 2:19

Well to get onto the Narrow Path (which I view as the path of Salvation or the Christian Journey) We must first enter through the Narrow Gate which is Jesus Christ who is the Only way onto that path. :) Hope that clears it up a bit for you. Ultimately both are important and require much grace. Christ is with us through it all both entering the Gate and walking the Path. And ultimately He is the one who will be Glorified.

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/5 2:31

Hi! 'Mguldner'

Thanks for the response to my previous question.

After I asked an' Logged Off, I got to thinkin', "I sure hope that person doesn't think that was some sorta' trick question 'er sumthin' like that."

Yes, indeed! "Christ is with us", as you said, "through it all; both entering the Gate walking the Path".

I'm very encouraged by your confessions of faith which I have bumped into here-an'-there in this Forum.

Thanks again for taking the time to reply.

Keep Smiling!

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by mguldner on 2012/7/4 23:19:04
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Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/5 8:11

Well I am glad you asked the question because it did bring about the point of the difference between the Gate and the Path, it is important to distinguish them to some extent. I generally don't think people are trying to throw in trick questions or at least I like to think it's not their intent.

I find it interesting the amount of Christians who at one time entered through the Narrow gate but have since forsaken the rougher path. I listened to an awesome sermon on immorality that pointed out that if we could just see the destination before we got there we would often times change or to an extent be more willing to change if that destination is bad.

Re: - posted by Blayne, on: 2012/7/5 9:29

Hi! 'Mguldner'

Well, I'm glad to hear that you recognized the gesture of my question.

We all have been found by Jesus on some other tragic path of our own making. Most times it's the pain and anguish of our former path which desperately had us searching for escape and rescue.

For instance, Jesus found me over 40 years ago on the path of a 'career criminal'. It wasn't that I didn't know that stealing was wrong. Quite the contrary, I knew full well that the path was highly immoral but I couldn't see a departure point. I was so wounded and bruised in my inner man that I was unable to keep regular employment for more than a few days. So, the only alternative I believed that I was left with at the time was stealing.

Today, I was thinking about what an incredible paradox my life has been. When I was without knowledge of God, I was busy being a thief. After coming to know God, I became busy wrestling against the most treacherous thief of all.

Of course, spiritual thieves are far more treacherous and damaging than any criminal could ever conceive.

I got to thinking about my former path today and began to smile to myself about the paradox of it all.

For instance, I remembered the day that I stumbled into my first safe. I had neither an idea nor the tools to break it open. As you might imagine, I was greatly disappointed. So, I set out to learn as much as I could about safes. I broke into safe stores and spent a few nights in them to learn about their weaknesses and strengths. It wasn't too long afterwards that I gained the reputation as a 'safe cracker'.

Before my hearing the Gospel, spiritual thieves had also spent many days and nights examining the safe-keeping of my being for weakness and vulnerabilities. They too were determined to break into my existence and steal everything of value. After all, they were eternal specialists at stealing treasures from the containers of inner men. What a paradox, ay?

But here is the flip side of the story:

With the recent advent of cellular technology and advanced surveillance techniques, all the knowledge and skills I had learned about burglary in times past have mostly become redundant. It would not be possible for me to be as successful a thief today as it was formerly. My burglary skill-sets have become nearly obsolete.

And, that's exactly what happened too when I heard the Gospel. The skills and devices of my spiritual thieves began to become weakened and redundant. I had acquired new defense systems to protect my inner man from the thieves. I no longer remained easy prey; they could not plunder my inner man so easily as before.

Something more:

When I was on that destructive path, I would occasionally bump into thieves who never learned the advanced skills required to conduct large scale criminal theft. They were limited to what are known as 'smash-an-grab' incidents. They would simply walk down the street, smash a window and hurry off with the valuables displayed behind it.

That's how I think about spiritual thieves now.

They are unable to rape my inner man any longer. They are limited to 'smash-an-grab' instances.

Of course, this doesn't mean that I let my guard down and somehow let their juvenile thievery continue uncontested. Because one dark night the thief might decide to not only smash the window into my inner man and hurriedly steal; he could very well begin to feel sufficiently confident to leap through the open window and tour my entire secret place and steal a lot more than I might suspect.

So it is that today my life is now not one of being mindlessly raped and conquered; it's instead minor smash-and-grabs. I can survive and recuperate intact through the occasional smash-an-grab easily enough.

A few years ago, when I was leading a former accomplice to Christ, he knelt down and said something that really touched me: "Jesus, please steal my heart like I have stolen so many people's money".

At the time, I never interrupted to tell him about how Jesus doesn't exactly steal a person's heart.

But afterwards I got to thinking about that prayer of his and it gave me the title of a book I'm now writing, "The Land of Stolen Spirits".

Re: - posted by mguldner (), on: 2012/7/5 19:25

Brother that is a beautiful testimony and I appreciate you sharing it. I recently came to a place that I really didn't fully think about. As a human I can become vulnerable if I'm not careful. Something that we Christians sometimes fail to realize is we are in a serious battle.

I recently started reading the book "The Art of War" and in it, it says 90% of wars won is through deception. Satan intends to use this deception to defeat us. If you haven't already I would highly recommend "Pilgrim's Progress" which is about a man walking the Righteous Path and follows his journey. The other book I highly recommend is "The Holy War" which is an allegory of the inner man which I believe you would greatly enjoy both books are by John Bunyan.