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Walking Down Heaven's Road

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Walking is something of which I have never been a big fan. I realize that walking is good for the cardiovascular and respiratory system, but my blood pumps pretty well (as far as I know) and I can breathe in and out at the right times so that I remain alive. That's a good thing, right?

All kidding aside, our Christian walk in reality must be one that we can say with all confidence that we are "walking down Heaven's road." Jesus makes it perfectly clear that we all must choose the way that we are going to walk. Jesus tells us to "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it*" (Mt 7:13-14). Many of us do not like to walk with the few. We know that the majority would rather stroll along the wide path, believing that they are the ones having all the "fun!" Jesus said the "few" find the narrow way. This is not because this way is difficult to find, but rather difficult to walk upon. The word "narrow" in our text means "to compress, cramp, reduce, anguish, distress." This way that the Lord Jesus tells us we must take in order to walk towards and one day arrive at eternal life is a way that is not a stroll in the park, but rather a walk that will be difficult. Does this come as a surprise to you? If so, you have failed to familiarize yourself with the manual that describes the Christian's walk.

It is this writer's opinion that far too many are "convinced" of the need to become a Christian and too few are "convicted" and grounded in God's word so that as one walks along the "straight and narrow" or "compressed and anguished" way will understand that their walk will not be an easy one, but one that will continue to be difficult and unpopular! The need today is not to convince as many as we can to turn their lives to Christ, but to convince and inform others of the way in which Jesus says one MUST walk in order to find life.

Paul was not sending mixed signals or painting an optical illusion to those who chose to follow Christ. Rather, Paul said to the Christians of his day that "*we must*

through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). In the days of old, God said to His people, “Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you. But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward” (Jer 7:23-24).

Today is no different. God’s people must walk in the ways that He has commanded. All who proclaim to be His children must walk in newness of life (Rom 6:4), after the Spirit (Rom 8:1, Gal 5:16), honestly (Rom 13:13), by faith (2 Cor 5:7), in Christ (Gal 3:27; Col 2:2), in love (Eph 5:2), worthy of the Lord (Col 1:10), in the light (1 Jn 1:7) and by the same rule or standard (Phil 3:16). This list barely touches the hem of the garment.

We must be careful to maintain our walk upon Heaven’s road to ensure that we are continuously striving and pressing towards the mark, “agonizing” to enter the straight gate (Lk 13:24) and pressing forward as we run the race with patience towards our prize (Phil 3:14; Heb 12:1).

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset up, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us”

(Heb 12:1)