

BEWARE !

ALL WAYS

ARE NOT

SAFE

Proverbs 14:12

All of us, at one time or another, have gone on a trip.

We get the latest road map so we can chart our way.

But many times, even after careful planning, we find that we are on the wrong road or just simply going the wrong way.

It seemed right, it even looked right, but it was wrong.

This reminds me of a Bible truth in Proverbs 14:12
and is repeated again Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems unto man, but the end
thereof is the way of death.

On the road of life we are all travelers.

It is a journey that takes a life time to complete.

We must be sure that we are traveling on the right
road.

Let's notice some facts about seemingly right ways.

Why Do Men Walk In A Certain Way?

Because it is the way in which they were born.

I am not talking about Calvin's theory of predestination.

We all were raised different environments.

More times then not it is hard to break with our backgrounds.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, and he is old he will not depart from it.

Ephesians 6:4

And you fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 11:9; 12:1

Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them."

They see so many others walking in this way.

It seems to be the popular way. Everyone else is doing it.

We don't want to be an "outcast" (a nerd).

John 12 :42-43

Nevertheless, even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more the praise of God.

Jesus talked about others who loved to receive the praise of men in Matthew 6:1-4.

Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father in heaven. So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Others go a certain way because it is pleasing to them or pleasurable.

The Bible does say that sin is enjoyable.

But that is not all it says:

Hebrews 11:25

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin.

The passing pleasures of sin; The Revised Standard Version says, “the fleeting pleasures of sin. The King James Version says, “than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season,”

In other words, it does not last.

Those who seek only after pleasure want only what makes them happy.

Luke 8:14

Now the ones that fell among the thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

They desire to please only self.

Luke 9:23

If anyone desires to come to Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Others walk down a certain path because it is the easy way.

The path of least resistance.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction and those enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Still, others travel certain roads because it is profitable to them.

They do it for personal gain.

They use their religion as a pretext to make business contacts.

Luke 12:15

Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

I Timothy 6:10

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Some Ways Which Seem Right Unto Men.

Hedonistic Philosophy

This philosophy believes that pleasure is the chief goal.

They believe pleasure is the only good.

This seems to be the way of the world. If it feels good to me, it can't be wrong.

I Timothy 5:6

But she who lives in pleasure is dead while she lives.

Some think they are on the right road with their religious teachings.

But when the teachings are wrong, then the end is deadly.

What kind of teachings?

Salvation by prayer.

We have noticed in previous lessons that both Cornelius and Saul were devout men of prayer.

But their prayers did not save them.

If people are saved by prayer why weren't these two men?

Another false teaching: Baptism is not essential for salvation.

1 Peter 3:21

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for clear conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Or how about the doctrine of “faith only.”

Romans 2:6

Who “will render to each one according to his deeds.”

II Corinthians 5:10-11

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord we persuade men.

James 2:17-26

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the alter. Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God. You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Others teach the doctrine that there is no hell.

Revelation 20:14-15 talks about “the lake of fire.”

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death; and if any one's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Matthew 25:30

And cast the worthless servant into outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

It sounds like there is a hell to me.

The doctrine that any church will do.

Jesus said that He would build His church in
Matthew 16:18

In Ephesians 4 verses 4 and 5, we are told that
“there is one body” and “one faith”

Before we “choose a church” we need to investigate
to make sure we are in the right one.

Then there are the doctrines of:

Using instrumental music in worship.

Predestination

The use of spiritual gifts, such as faith healings and speaking in tongues.

The list could on and on.

These doctrines are all false and therefore they are not safe.

There those who just “have a form of godliness”
walking down the road.

Church to these people is just a formality.

They live a nominal Christian life.

But, where is their heart?

II Timothy 3:5

Having a form of godliness but denying its power.
And from such people turn away!

The road of good intentions.

Wanting to do acts of righteousness (good deeds),
but always them putting off.

“I’ll do it tomorrow.”

The road to hell is paved with good intentions.

The Bible emphasizes the here and now, today.

II Corinthians 6:2

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold now is the
day of salvation.

Hebrews 3:7-13

Therefore as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you will
His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the
rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where
your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works
for forty years. Therefore I was angry with that
generation, and said, ‘They always go astray in their
hearts, and they have not known My ways.’ So I
swore in My wrath, ‘They shall never enter My rest.’ ”
Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil
heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but
exhort on another daily, as long as it is called “today,”
lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness
of sin.

What Is Waiting At The End Of The Wrong Way?

Death and Destruction.

Bible Examples:

Adam and Eve, Genesis 3.

The people in the days of Noah, Genesis 6-7.

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 19.

Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5.

Examples from every day life.

I heard of a football player who caught a pass, but started running the wrong way---thinking all the time he was going the right way.

People eating poisonous food unaware.

A car speeding down a dead-end street unaware of what is ahead.

We need to be aware. Not all ways are safe.

There is only one safe way:

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Our destination is heaven.

Jesus and His word is our road map.

This is the only safe way.

WHAT ROAD

ARE YOU

TRAVELING

ON

TONIGHT?

Given by David Hamlin 1-28-07 pm

Hollister Missouri

www.hollisterchurchofchrist.org