

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXIX

April 7, 2019

No.14

The Right Way Led By God

(Michael Baker)

In *Psalm 107* we read of a group that is led by God. This group has seen the Lord's goodness and mercy. He has redeemed them from their enemies and gathered them to Himself. In a time of discouragement He protects and leads this group. They cry out to Him when they are in trouble, and He delivers them. The text then tells us that “*He led them forth by the right way*” in *Psalm 107:7*. The word for “right” in that text can also be translated as “straight.” We too are led on the “straight way” if we live a life that is pleasing to God. There are some characteristics we should know about this straight way in order to bolster our commitment to this way.

The right way that is led by God is not always pleasant. Just because we have decided to follow God, does not mean those who are around us will commit in the same way. In *2 Timothy 4:10* Paul has been imprisoned for preaching the gospel and it cost him his friend Demas. The “right way” was never intended to bring peace to families either. Jesus says in *Matthew 10:34-37* that He came to bring a sword to family relationships. The gospel of Jesus Christ brings division when our family is not willing to stand in the right way along with us. The

right way not only may cost us our friends and family, but it is also demanding to us individually. Paul says in *Titus 2:11-12* that the gospel teaches us that we are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts if we want to live righteously. Following God down His path prevents us from going down a path we might want to go. We cannot go down two paths. It is either a path of our choosing or it is the one He is leading us on.

This right way led by God may even seem lonely. In *Acts 5:22-29*, all the Jews are against Peter and the Apostles because their preaching has convicted them of murdering the Son of God. As they stood before the Jewish council, a handful of men against an entire city of Jews who wanted to stone them, they probably felt alone. Jesus says in *Matthew 7:13-14* that the right way is narrow and there are few who find it. Certainly there are times we feel lonesome because this straight and narrow way is difficult and few are with us.

But why would anyone choose to go down a path that costs you so much and is lonely? It's because the straightway led by God is also rewarding. *Revelation 21:4* reveals that there will be no more pain, tears, or sorrow

where we are traveling. God shall reward us with rest from the trying emotions we endured in this life. Notice also that we are individually judged to how we handled this right and straight path. In *Revelation 21:12*, we see that we are rewarded with peace based on the work we did while on earth. Rest beyond measure awaits those who did the work that needed to be done to remain on the straight path that is led by God. That is the reason we endure the hardships of this life and it's the same reason it will be worth it in the end.

The Hebrew writer paints this picture beautifully in *Hebrews 10:32-39*. We may endure great struggles with those around us, but do not allow that to cloud our vision of our reward. We need to continue pressing on though we may feel discouraged at the cost this narrow path has on friendships, family, and personal choices. We need to endure the difficulties of feeling lonesome in the times when we feel like no one else is on this straight path with us. We keep going because of the destination ahead. *Psalm 107:7* says we're being led by God to a dwelling place. A place is waiting for us where we will find rest with Him forever. Remain strong brethren, you're not alone!