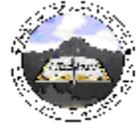




# On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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*All Scripture presented is from the Authorized King James Version unless otherwise noted. Comments and notations by this author within Scripture text will appear in brackets.*

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## The Way Of Life

An interesting paradox exists regarding the world and our relationship to it.

**John 15:19**

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

We may be from the world but we are not of the world. We are the Lord's chosen, culled out of the world. For this reason the world hates us.

We do not now, nor should we ever, fit the model of the world. Rather, it would be better that we “slip through the cracks.”

Consequently, we are directed to the following:

**Romans 12:1&2**

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.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We are not to be conformed or molded to the world, yet it is for our conformation that the world strives.

What is it to be conformed to the world? Consider the same passage as rendered by the Bible in Basic English.

**Romans 12:1&2**

For this reason I make request to you, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you will give your bodies as a living offering, holy, pleasing to God, which is the worship it is right for you to give him.

And let not your behaviour be like that of this world, but be changed and made new in mind, so that by experience you may have knowledge of the good and pleasing and complete purpose of God. (Bible in Basic English)

Our behavior should be a glory to our God and a tribute to our Lord Jesus Christ. We should be a credit to God's Word in all that we do and say.

**Ephesians 5:1-7**

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

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We are to follow or imitate God's Way. His Way is made known to us as we study and believe His Word. Having done that we then decide to abandon our ways in favor of His. This is a decision that must be renewed every single day. It is not a one time for all time decision.

God provided sustenance for Israel. Within this process God set forth a vital lesson, one far more enduring than food. Something they dearly needed to learn for they quickly forgot that they were emancipated and became resentful of their Deliverer.

**Exodus 16:2-4**

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Bread from heaven with naught but a simple command, i.e., take no more than you need daily.

Sadly, they failed miserably. But, this basic truth endures to all generations.

**Deuteronomy 8:1-3**

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know *what* was in thine heart, whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Man is proved daily by his own actions, whether to keep the commandment of God or not. In this we clearly see that it is by every Word of God that we live. Physical food places a "distant second" to the magnificent Word of God.

Daily we are tempted to live our way rather than God's.

Our Lord, being tempted in all points like as we yet without sin, was exemplary in always choosing God's Way.

Even with the devil being personally present to tempt him he remained stalwart.

**Matthew 4:1-4**

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

It is of note that the section of Holy Writ from which the Lord quoted is Deuteronomy 8:3. The one and same lesson regarding a daily decision to obey God's Word and that regardless of circumstance or personal hazard. In this case the Lord was in dire need of sustenance making his situation most extreme.

What a wonderful Lord we have! No circumstance ever dictated his action nor swayed his decision making. No! His decisions were based upon the Word of God and nothing else. And make no mistake, this was a daily process for him just as it is for us.

How thankful we should be that our Lord has chosen us! Therefore, we are not of the world and should follow none of its ways. Further, we are given the Word of God which

when believed ensures that we are not of this world.

**John 17:14-17**

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

It is the Word of God that sanctifies us, setting us apart from the world and the things of the world. But, only when acted upon. No amount of mental assent will suffice, the Word must be mixed with faith for us to receive its benefits.

Of course some would argue that the above passage is not for us but rather was for those present during the Lord's earthly ministry. For those believing that I suggest reading the rest of the immediate context. Namely the following:

**Verses 18-ff**

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Notice verse 20! You and I are definitely among those who believe on Jesus Christ through the word passed on by those present that day. Many years may have passed but when God's Word is spoken

today it is the same as when the Lord Jesus Christ himself spoke it!

And should you have missed it, Jesus prayed for the current reality of God in Christ in you.

**II Corinthians 5:19**

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

God was IN Christ. Not that He was Christ or that Christ is God but He (God) was IN Christ.

Furthermore:

**Colossians 1:27**

To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Christ IN you! Not Christ is you or you are him, but he is IN you. Hence, it is God IN Christ IN you!

Remember the prayer:

**John 17:23**

I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

To think that Jesus prayed for us before ever we were. It leaves me breathless. How about you?

There is no question in my mind but that God's Way is the ONLY way.

Jesus Christ being the apotheosis of same.

**John 14:6**

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

This then is a fundamental truth about which there can be no debate. Having said that, men still tend to allow their thoughts to wander.

**Proverbs 16:25**

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

I personally am not interested in the ways of death. Are you? So then, it is Jesus Christ that we must follow for he and he alone is **THE** way.

**I Peter 2:21**

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

If we are to follow in the footsteps of our Lord we must adhere to the Scripture with the same tenacity as he demonstrated, and that daily.

**Psalms 61:8**

So will I make songs in praise of your name for ever, giving to God that which is right day by day. (Bible in Basic English)

The least we can do is render to God that which is right and this we must do daily. After all, He blesses us every single day.

**Psalms 68:19**

Blessed *be* the Lord, *who* daily loadeth us *with benefits*, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

Following we read a requirement for discipleship.

**Luke 9:23-25**

And he said to *them* all, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily [shoulder your responsibility], and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life [worldly existence] shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it [spiritual life].

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Daily we must shoulder our commitment to keep Jesus Lord. We confessed him so at the onset of our Christian journey and must keep him so throughout.

In order to do this we must put an end to our worldliness for if we do not, we shall lose ourselves to the world or be destroyed. Life is much too short to squander in worldly pursuits.

Consider the routine of the first century Christian:

**Acts 2:46&47**

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The habit pattern of the modern Christian and the results thereof are a far cry from what we read in Acts 2. Aren't they?

The current practice of the average Christian today is anemic by comparison. Why is this? Worldliness. This is the reason we see such meager results in outreach also. Certainly it isn't God nor His Word that have changed. It's us O' Lord, it's us.

Thankfully this situation is rectifiable. It's a simple matter of choice, but a choice that must be made every day. That is, to walk God's Way rather than our own. Or more properly, to make His Way our way.

**Acts 5:42**

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

There must first be a teaching and a preaching of Jesus Christ. Not a social gospel, personal experience, self-development, worship in the guise of entertainment, opinion, community concerns, politics or current events.

There's a rash of the above prevalent in our Churches today. There are those who simply tell those present only what they want to hear or already believe. That's a "social feel good" gospel. You surely don't want to alienate anyone. Sin does not seem to concern them.

After all we must fill the pews and line the coffers.

Others rant and rave preaching the “greatness” of their experiences, over and over again. For them Scripture appears to take a back seat to their perspective. Could they know more than God?

Programs focused on the individual’s benefit are also quite popular these days. This certainly gives the Church-goer a track for personal profit. But what does God want?

It also seems that “good music” has become more of a draw than the wonderful, matchless Word of God. My brethren, these things ought not to be so!

But the one that leads so many astray these days resides in presenting community concerns and current events rather than the Gospel. Or worse yet, calling these things the Gospel.

The preacher steps behind the lectern, reads a verse or two and launches into news commentary. This is all too common, especially since many are now consulting the media for a confirmation of the Scripture. This could not be more backwards.

We must look to the Literature of Eternity for guidance and NOT to the literature of the times. We do not chart our lives by current events but rather by future certainties. I submit to the Return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Hope of Eternity!

The Word of God is our map and the Hope our compass. It is by

God’s Word that we are guided, not by the state of the Union.

**Psalms 119:105**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

It is God’s Word which illuminates or path. His Word alone can lead us through darkness.

**Psalms 43:3**

O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

God’s Word is truth and light. His Word leads us, but we must decide to follow and that every day.

**Psalms 19:8**

The statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes.

Not only is His Word right, it is pure. In this our hearts rejoice and our understanding is enlightened.

**Psalms 18:28**

For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

His Word causes the darkness to flee as He lights our way.

Every day we must decide which way to go. We have but one of two choices. It may seem there are many but there are only two.

God gave the following to Jeremiah for a charge to Israel:

**Jeremiah 21:8**

And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.

Two ways, choose one. The way of life or the way of death. This choice must be made anew every single day. Failure to choose yields to the way of death by default.

Moses, prior to his death, set the same truth before Israel with defining characteristics.

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, *and that* ye shall not prolong *your* days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

God is our life, even as He was theirs. Why would we choose anything other than life? Especially since God is that life that we choose.

Colossians 3:1-5a

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth . . .

God and His Son are our life. We must put to death any semblance of worldliness and live unto them.

I John 2:15-17

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of

the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

All that is in the world shall pass away, but those who do the will of God abide forever! Why love that which is so temporal and ineffectual? To do so is perilous. The choice is obvious, is it not?

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Only two choices. One to love, one to hate. Which will it be? Decide today and decide again tomorrow or be deceived day by day. This is not a one time only decision. Would that it were.

Imagine, if you will, the adoration some of our leaders have for the world. Think how this planet and its wild life are put on pedestals. It would seem that environmental health is more important than reverence for God.

Now consider this:

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

How much "stock" ought we to put in the designs of those who have befriended the world? Clearly it is folly to base one's actions upon information received from such sources.

Romans 8:5-8

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Obviously we all want to please God. Therefore, though we ourselves may think spiritually, we must not allow the carnal minded to direct our way.

To stay on course we need the Scripture.

Psalms 119:59

I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

Isaiah 55:8&9

For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

That being the case we would be remiss if we did not discard our ways in favor of His.

Proverbs 6:23

For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

The following is a poem I've enjoyed for many years. I trust it will be as much a delight to you as it has been to me.

The Way

To every man there openeth A Way, and Ways, and a Way, And the High Soul climbs the High Way, And the Low Soul gropes the Low, And in between, on the misty flats, The rest drift to and fro. But to every man there openeth A High Way, and a Low. And every man decideth The way his soul shall go.

John Oxenham

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## Sue's News

It's hard to believe it's the end of July already. The summer seemed to come and go in a couple of weeks. We had a few weeks of really beautiful Alaskan summer, then it started to cool down some and has been that way ever since. Autumn is trying to break through and even a few leaves have started to fall. Here in Alaska, you need to enjoy the summer while you can because it doesn't hang around for long.

At this moment, we are awaiting the arrival of our niece, Melissa, from South Carolina. She is coming to spend a couple of weeks with us

before she starts her senior year of high school. She has made us very proud this past year. She was invited to a medical conference that only the brightest and the best high school students get invited to. She plans to go college for neuroscience when she graduates from high school. You go girl!

Our family is happy and healthy. Malachi starts first grade this year and Arin will be starting kindergarten. That should be interesting! As I have said before, Arin is a busy boy. They both bring smiles to our faces and are usually eager to come over and spend time with Granddaddy and Grandmom. They love to go out back and play with the dogs. That gives everyone involved lots of good exercise!

Lydia is doing well. After breaking her ankle in March, she finally got the okay from her surgeon to do whatever she wanted after July 4th. Now she's out and about and having fun. She's still thinking about heading east at some point, but has made no plans yet.

Linus and I continue to do what we do. He teaches the Word at the Teaching Center every Sunday and ministers to the folks who attend. I do what I can to make things a blessing.

So until next time, stay happy and blessed. God is good!

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