

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

February 19, 2020

The Everlasting Path

When my four children were young, we visited a state park in northern Arkansas. As we walked a trail through the mountainous terrain, we came upon a huge rock formation that had a rounded slope which dropped off to a stream about 200 feet below. The area was roped off, and my wife and I were reading a warning sign when we heard my four year old son Tyler shout “Hey Mom! Look at me!” We looked up and saw him standing far beyond the barrier on the downward curve of the rock formation. He could have easily slipped and slid down the rock formation to his death. My wife and I were in shock and stood in silence for a few seconds not wanting him to make any sudden moves which might cause him to slip. “Tyler, you get over here now,” I said calmly and firmly. He just walked up the slope of the rock formation and was quickly out of danger ...except for maybe from his mother.

The Apostle Paul instructed those whom had been recently chastened of the Lord to “...*lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And **make straight paths for your feet**, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way...*”

Hebrews 12:12-13. These had been corrected, and some even scourged. Now it was time for them to stand up and begin to walk as they knew they should. He told them to “*make straight paths for your feet.*”

The words “*straight paths*” must refer back to the prophecies given of Christ’s ministry and work upon earth. John the Baptist was “*The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, **make his paths straight.** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*” Luke 3:4-5, Isaiah 40:3-5. This prophecy of “*the way of the Lord*” was declaring there would be a path without “*mountains,*” “*valleys,*” or “*crooked*” and “*rough*” places. It would be a path anyone could walk. Isaiah also spoke of this path, saying, “*Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.*” Isaiah 62:10. This “*highway*” would be a path where the “*stones of stumbling*” had been removed. A child could walk this path, along with the elderly and the weak in body. This would be a road anyone could travel. Those who walked this path would be called “*The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD...*” Isaiah 62:12.

God called this “*highway,*” or way, “*the way of Holiness.*” Isaiah 35:10. It is important to see he did not say “*holiness is the way,*” but that this is the “*way of holiness.*” Jesus Christ is “*the way*” John 14:6, and those who walk in him have found “*the way of holiness*” through the sanctifying power of His shed blood. Hebrews 13:12. There is no danger on this “*highway.*” The scripture says, “*No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:*” Isaiah 35:9. It is true that Satan is as “*a roaring lion ...seeking whom he may devour*”, but he cannot devour those on this path because he

has no place on this highway. There is no devil in the kingdom of God! If you are walking in Christ, you are not one that Satan can devour.

These prophecies tell of a place, which is Christ, where “...we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him (God) without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.” Luke 1:74-75. It is a path anyone can walk who will simply believe the gospel and trust in Christ. There are no cliffs or pitfalls on this way. You do not have to be strong enough to climb a mountain or trudge through dark valleys. It is a straight and simple path, and it is prepared in Christ for the people of God.

Those who had been “*chastened of the Lord*” were like my son Tyler. They had forsaken the “*way of the Lord*” and had chosen their own path, or were led there by foolish shepherds. It is a path where the “children,” the “weak,” and the “lame” were falling along the wayside; many were even perishing by the way. In a push for excitement, or to seem “relevant” to this world, many today are leading the people along spiritual “cliffs,” and paths filled with “*stones of stumbling*” which destroy the soul. We are losing our children in droves as our churches train them to walk, look, and act like the world. Christian people think nothing of alcohol use, gambling, partying, and such things, not considering the snares that lie-in-wait to destroy the soul. It is rare when you find someone who knows what it is to simply walk in the presence of God. People want to walk like a “daredevil,” and that is exactly what the devil dares you to do.

God instructed the people, saying, “*Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths,*

where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. Jeremiah 6:16. The words *“old paths”* are not just speaking of the path your parents or grandparents may have walked. The word *“old”* is better translated from the Hebrew language as *“everlasting.”* God was saying, ***“...ask for the everlasting path!”*** It is the *“good way!”* It is a walk in freedom and victory. Anyone who will believe the gospel can walk this path. It is for *“whosoever will.”* It is the *“highway”* God prepared for his people through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, and those who walk in it *“find rest for their soul!”*