



# The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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## “The Road Less Traveled”

By

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*“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I...I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost*

Whether it be in our daily, earthly travels or the important, consequential decisions we must make in our lives, we can all certainly relate to the imagery of standing at a crossroads and having to decide which road to take. As we pause, reflect and weigh our choices many questions begin to flood our minds. Which way should we go? Which road is the right one? Will one be easier or harder to follow? What if we choose the wrong one? How do we even know which to choose?

In Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus Christ spoke of two separate roads we could follow, and the serious spiritual ramifications of each one. *“Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the*

*gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

There are many implications we can draw from his statements here. First of all, spiritually speaking, Jesus noted that there are only two roads we can follow - the wide, broad road that leads to destruction or the straight and narrow road which leads to life. There are no other roads! There is no road combining or blending the two roads into an acceptable hybrid. Secondly, the roads are mutually exclusive. That is to say that the two roads do not run concurrently or intersect each other in any way at any time. In other words, it is not possible to be on both of the roads simultaneously. At any given time in our lives we are either on one road or the other. We cannot walk on two different roads that are diametrically opposed to each other at the same time.

We can also note that each path has its own

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The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

Visit our website at:

[www.southeastchurchofchrist.org](http://www.southeastchurchofchrist.org)

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unique identifying characteristics. The road with the wide gate and broad way is the easier way for many requiring less effort on their part, thereby making it the more popular road. It is the way of the world and the mindless crowd. It is the way exemplified by statements we and our children often hear like, “It must be all right because everyone else

is doing it,” or “If it feels good do it.” There are no limitations, restrictions or requirements on this road. It is a road that is passively entered into and upon by doing nothing, just like floating downstream with the current. And as Jesus stated so bluntly there will be many that will blindly follow this road to their own destruction.

On the other hand, the road having the straight gate and narrow way stands in direct opposition to the wide and broad way of the world that is associated with Satan. It is the road that Christ established in his ministry on this earth. It is the same road that His own apostles preached by the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit after Christ ascended into heaven. And it is the same road that we read of in God’s Word - the Bible. It is characterized by divine things like the love of Christ, salvation, redemption, spiritual renewal, transformation, and the fruits of the Holy Spirit - love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is a road that therefore requires much effort on our part and is actively entered into and pursued on a daily basis. It is a road that requires us to live and worship within the boundaries of God’s Word.

The apostle Paul compared the effort in following this road to that of running a race in I Corinthians 9:24-27, “<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.<sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.<sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.<sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.” It is a road that requires seeking, searching and pursuing. Therefore Jesus plainly stated that there would be few that would “find” or travel it.

How then, do we find the straight and narrow path that Jesus was speaking of? And after finding it, how do we stay true to following it? Well, we can look to God’s Word and learn from those who did just that.

It has been said that, “True nobility knows no fear.” In Acts 17:10-11 we are told of a “noble” group of people who put any personal fears they had aside and actively sought out the right road to choose. “<sup>10</sup> Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and

*Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews.<sup>11</sup> These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”* The word “noble” here refers to a greatness of character or being spiritually “well-born.” And they certainly were, for we see that as the Word of God was preached to them they received it with a ready mind. When God’s Word meets a ready mind the spiritual road one should choose becomes much more clear and evident for the hearer. Then, and only then, can the hearer of the Word progress to becoming a faithful doer of the Word. Jesus described this same process in the parable of the sower in comparing the Word to seed that was sown in planting. In describing the seed that fell on the “good” ground, (people with ready hearts and minds), Jesus said, “*But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*” (Matt. 13:8)

May we also accept the truth with ready minds, choosing the less traveled road, understanding that it too will make all the difference in this life and the life to come.