

## ***Where Do You Want To Go?***

One of the major thoroughfares in our city is named Broad Street. It is a very popular place to be during rush hour. Not only does it take people to the places they desire to go, but also gives them plenty of room in which to travel. A narrow one-lane path would never do.

The Lord also spoke of a broad way. It is wide enough to accommodate as many as desire it. Its spacious lanes welcome as much baggage as we wish to take. It is the most popular way to travel. It requires nothing from us. We can live it up on this street without fear of cross-examination.

The only drawback is its destination. "*For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat*" (Mt.7:13).

Fortunately, there is an alternative to this deceptive street: The strait and narrow path. This is a more difficult way to travel. Some effort is required just to enter this road. The way is narrow, requiring its travelers to be constantly on guard lest they fall. It is not a very popular way to journey. Few people even find this road. This is not because they are unwelcome, but because they are unwilling to pay its toll.

The advantage to this way is its destination. "*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Mt. 7: 14) . Will your road take you where you want to go?

- by Rick Duggin

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## ***The Importance of Thoughts***

If you are concerned about your character, your conduct, your life and your destiny, then be concerned about your thoughts. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). The heart is the mind, and the mind is the center of thoughts. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Prov. 23:7). A man may not be what he appears to be, but he is what he thinks.

What goes into your mind, then, is extremely important. Be careful about the interests you acquire, the tastes you cultivate, the desires you develop. They shape what goes into your mind. The conversations you listen to, the scenes you observe, the movies you view, the TV programs you tune into, the newspapers, magazines and books you read, the songs by which you are entertained, the jokes you laugh at, the things you are taught all have a part in feeding information into your mind.

You evaluate and monitor all that you hear and see. Your standard for evaluation and your conscience are vital and play their roles. You may seek out or receive what is vulgar or distorted, or you may reject and refuse it. You may pursue and embrace what is wholesome and true, or you may have no interest in it and neglect it. Be cautious, particular and selective about what goes into your mind. If you allow garbage to go in, then garbage will come out in the form of words and deeds.

What goes on in your mind is also extremely important. Be careful about your thoughts, meditations, desires, ambitions, daydreams and fantasies. You determine what goes on in your mind. You are the master of it because you have control over it. It is your own little secret world -- except that God knows all about it, and will one day bring it to light when you have to answer for it in the judgment (Eccl. 12:14; Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 2:16; 2 Cor. 5:10). And sooner or later it will find expression in your life and make itself known.

We cannot be like God without thinking the thoughts of God. We cannot know the thoughts of God apart from the revelation of the things of God in the word of God (1 Cor. 2:11-13). We cannot have the thoughts of God in our hearts apart from reverent study of and meditation upon the word of God, coupled with a sincere desire to do the will of God (Jn. 7:17).

- by Bill Crews

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## ***In Troubling Times***

Most folks stay quite concerned by developments in the news. With nations fighting nations, and

terrorists fighting everyone (it seems), there is good cause for alarm. Even in our own country there are serious signs of unrest and strife.

The Bible addresses these things, and tells us how we ought to react as the people of God:

1. PRAY:

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

2. DEVELOP A STRONG DETERMINATION TO DO RIGHT REGARDLESS OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN:

We tend to take our great liberties for granted. The time may come when, for any number of reasons, these freedoms will no longer be ours. We need to resolve right now that we will be faithful to our Lord. No matter what happens, "we ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:28).

3. AVOID WORRY:

"Take therefore no thought (do not worry - NKJV) for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matthew 6:34)

4. MAINTAIN HOPE:

"He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee, so that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:5,6).

**- by Greg Gwin**