

# LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

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## The Wrong Road

1Samuel 27:10

David, who was fleeing from Saul, had decided that in order to preserve his life, it would be necessary for him to get out of Israel. He fled to the land of the Philistines and stopped in Gath. While there he won the friendship of King Achish, whereupon the King gave him the town of Ziklag where David and his company of 600 men and their families lived for a year and four months. Regularly David reported to the King about his activities. He was busy making raids against the people of the region. The question: "Whither have ye made a road today?" is translated in the revisions "whither have ye made a raid today." The meaning in the original is: "where have you been today and what have been your activities? The king wanted to know "whither" i.e. to what place or among what people had this travel and activities taken him. This is an important question for all of us. "Where are we headed?" "In what direction are we traveling.?" If we continue to travel the road we now are traveling, where will it take us? Where will I be when the evening of life comes upon me?

### I. The Road to Nowhere is the Wrong Road.

Someone may say, every road leads to some place. This is true in a sense, but not in another. Job 6:18 "The paths of their way are turned aside; they go to nothing and perish." Roads that go to nothing are vain, empty, and useless. How many things do we say and do that are purposeless, that actually get us nowhere.

#### a. Idleness is a road that leads to nothing.

Mt.20:1-6 The householder in this parable goes at early morning, then at the third hour, sixth and ninth hour and then the eleventh hour. He asked "why stand he here all the day idle?" They had been there all day. Workers were desperately needed, yet evidently they had not heeded. They waited, they were idle. It got them nowhere. There are people today who sit idle in the marketplace of life, doing nothing. Waiting. Time passes and they live as though they have all the time in the world.

Time--the most valuable element of life, the very essence of life. "The thing of which we have the least quantity" Thomas Edison

With time we cannot:

1. Place it on a shelf for future use
2. It is not a thing to which we may return and correct our mistakes
3. The use of it is final and unchangeable

We must ask---Have we wasted it?

Eph. 5:16 "redeeming the time, because the days are evil"

Col. 4:5 "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."

That means buying up the time or opportunity i.e. we are to recover the time we have lost through negligence by a careful improvement of what remains." That is making up for lost time.

Many waste their lives in the idleness of sin, out of Christ, allowing years to pass unused.

b. Prejudice is a road that leads to nowhere.

Mt. 13:15 "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing. And their eyes have they closed. Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn so that I should heal them."

Prejudice in religion leads people to reject the right ways of God. Acts 7:54-60 The people railed on Stephen a preacher of righteousness and stoned him to death. (don't like the message, kill the messenger) Traveling down such a road, gets us nowhere. In fact, it is a dead end. Racial prejudice is equally a road that leads to nowhere. In Gal.2:11-14 Peter played the hypocrite. He yielded to racial pressure and was wrong for so doing. So today, when we slight, refuse to worship with, or refuse to grant the same privileges to all Christians based on color of skin, national origin, or economic considerations we are just as wrong as was Peter. James2:1 "My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him you sit here in a good place, and say to the poor man you stand there or sit here at my footstool, have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" Prejudice is a road that leads to nowhere. It accomplishes nothing good for the church or for individual Christians.

II. Roads That Lead To Confusion, Are The Wrong Road.

Some roads in life clarify nothing. They only tend to compound the problems and frustrations we already have.

a. A failure to believe in God is a road that leads to confusion.

Bildad talked of paths that lead to confusion when he said: "So are the paths of all who forget God, and the hypocrites hope shall perish, whose hope shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web." Job 8:13-14 To the human eye, nothing is more confusing than a spiders web. Its strands run in every direction and it is almost impossible to determine the destination or goal of any one of them. Without God the paths of life are like that. The origin, purpose, and destiny of life are meaningless without God.

From whence did we come? Why are we here? Where are we going? The attempted answer to these questions, by those who forget God, must resemble a spiders web.

The Atheist, the person who does not like to retain God in his knowledge has a reprobate mind. The same word is used in 2Tim.3:8 of those who are "reprobate concerning the faith" i.e. "Men whose moral sense is perverted and whose minds are beclouded with their own speculations" (Vine) The atheists are confused with speculations of their own making. The agnostic is confused, because he doesn't know what he believes. Atheism

leads to confusion regarding moral values, self worth, the future

b. Hypocrisy is a road that leads to confusion.

The hypocrite says one thing and does something entirely different.

He says honesty is the best policy, yet he lies, cheats, and steals. He says that morality is good for all, yet he practices the works of the flesh.

He declares that we should be unspotted from the world, but revels in the filth of sin.

c. Denominationalism is a road that leads to confusion.

Which denomination do I join? Where do I go to church? There are hundreds.

How do I make a choice? How do I know which one is right? Paul declared in 1 Cor. 1:10-12 that we are to have "no divisions among you..."

Religious division is nothing confusion. One cannot be happy in denominationalism unless he rids himself of the concept of book, chapter and verse preaching. See 1 Peter 4:11.

III. A Road That Leads To Destruction is the Wrong Road.

a. Worldliness is a road that leads to destruction.

James 4:4 "...the friendship of the world is enmity with God."

The movie and television industries have glamorized the playboy lifestyle, until some think it is the only life worth living. A lifestyle filled with fornication, adultery, uncleanness, cheating, lying and hidden intrigue. They never mention the heartache, heartbreak, broken homes, divorces, ruined lives, and troubled children that result from such a lifestyle. There really is something to be said for honesty, hard work, peace of mind, satisfaction, and moral purity. Prov. 10:16 "the labor of the righteous tendeth to life; the fruit of the wicked to sin." Happiness cannot be found in a liquor bottle or drugs. The gaiety with which the advertisements picture drinking is deceptive. The consequences are staggering. Alcoholism, auto accidents, brawling, quarreling, financial problems, family conflict, hangovers, absenteeism from work etc. It is a road that leads to destruction. Prov. 20:1 "Wine is a mocker strong drink is raging and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

1 John 2:15-17 "Love not the world..."

b. An uncontrolled temper is a road that leads to destruction.

A fire out of control destroys everything in its path, so also an uncontrolled temper.

A temper out of control:

1. Acts foolishly.

Prov. 14:17 "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly."

Prov. 14:29 "he that is hasty in spirit exalteth folly." People who lose their temper act foolishly.

An uncontrolled temper abounds in transgression.

Prov. 29:22 "An angry man stirreth up strife and a furious man aboundeth in transgressions."

Sins committed when angry:

cursing, abusive speech, murder, character assigation, false witnessing, fighting, revenge, hatred, slander, clamor. Simeon and Levi murdered a man in anger Gen. 49:6. Saul tried to slay David when envy gave place to anger 1Sam 25. Ahasureus deposed of his wife in his anger Esther 1:12.

What Are The Results of An Uncontrolled Temper?

1. In anger we inflict pain and injury to others.
2. Friendships and relationships are permanently injured
3. Forces one into isolation and loneliness
4. Become more involved in sin because godly people will not put themselves in jeopardy of being victimized by his wrath by rebuking him.

Prov. 9:7-8 "he that reproveth a scorner gitteth to himself shame and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee."

Uncontrolled temper and anger represent a road that leads to destruction.

We must be careful of the roads we choose. Whither have you made a road today? Where will it take you? Will you be satisfied or disappointed with the destination?