

"THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD..."

Proverbs 13:15 Matthew 7:13-14

Introduction: One of the most common figures of speech found in the Bible is the exhibition of the course of man's life. Here we read of the way of wisdom, folly, the way of life, and the way of death, the way of shame, the way of honor, the way of holiness which leads to heaven, and the way of darkness which leads to hell.

Jesus said, "*Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way...*"

There are only two classes of man in the eyes of God: the righteous and the wicked (unrighteous), the sinner and the saint, the Christian journeying heavenward and the transgressor on his way to ruin and death. Just what is a "transgressor?"

I. THE CHARACTER OF THE TRANSGRESSOR

The scriptures make it clear that all who violate the law of God and break the Commandments are transgressors. The Bible also says that ALL have sinned. The degrees of sin are almost endless.

1. There are the blasphemous transgressors.
 - Those who deny God's existence, who are unbelievers.
2. There are those who are "open" transgressors.
 - Those who give themselves up to work sin, who drink in it, who glory in their shame, who sit in the seat of the scorner, who mock sin, who are reckless and vile.
3. There are those who are victims of particular vices.
 - The swearer who profanes God's name.
 - The victims of lust, who want only earthly things.
 - The money-mad person, who cares for nothing but money and cares not how he/she gets it.
 - The slave of intemperance, who drowns his/her reason and ruins his/her health and soul in the intoxicating bottle.
 - Then there are those who disobey the Gospel and neglect the great salvation.

II. THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD

1. The way is broad and is adapted to the desires of the corrupt mind. It is a downward path, a flowing stream and man's evil heart loves it and it suits man's carnal desires.
2. It is a way of delusion. It's victims say the way is pleasant, enjoyable, but it's flowers are those of sickness, it's fruit like the apples of Sodom, it's caresses are the embraces of death, it's songs and music like that of a carnival. The price of such a way is Hell.
3. The way is thickly populated with people. The crowd is in it, the majority of all classes.
 - The rich and the poor, the young and the old, the learned and the illiterate.
 - Go to any country, any neighborhood, any city, any rank of life, any profession, any trade, any circle of people and the majority of them are going this way.

4. The way is manifestly EVIL. It is not the right way. Many do not attempt to deny it for they will tell you that they are sinners. The life of any dedicated Christian compared to the life of one going down this one-way path will greatly show that this way is wrong.

III. MORE PROOF THAT THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD

1. It produces bitter adversity. Many have spent their whole existence in support of vice. Large estates have been wasted, bright men and women have been blighted, nakedness and starvation are very often the direct results of sin.
2. It often involves it's victims in utter disgrace. How many have fallen out of respectability? How many have left the country or retired into obscurity because of the reputation transgression has given them?
3. It often causes extreme suffering and anguish. Go to the prisons, look at those shut off from society. Go to penal institutions, see those imprisoned for life. Go to the hospitals and see those groaning with pain and disease, go to the mental institutions and see those that are there because of sin, because of transgression.
4. It often causes premature and awful deaths. Look at the biblical impious Pharaoh, the suicide of King Saul, the traitor Judas, the lying Ananias and Sapphira. Take a look at our own time. Bodies found here and there, home invasions where the residents were killed, brutal executions and murders.
5. It carries it's victims into eternal sorrow. *"The wages of sin is death.."* Eternal death. *"The wicked shall be turned into hell.."* All the sufferings of this world are as a drop to the ocean compared to the divine wrath to come.

CONCLUSION:

1. Look again at the way of transgression. Look with alarm and dread. Think, pause before you take another step down the path of transgression. What are you doing?
2. Run from transgression as fast as you can and run toward God.
3. Remember, in the eyes of God there are only two kinds of people, those on the road to heaven and those on the road to Hell. There is no middle road. Which road are you on?