THERE ARE ONLY TWO PATHS AND DESTINIES WE HAVE TO CHOOSE FROM?

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- PATH ONE THE WIDE WAY OF SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.
- PATH TWO THE NARROW WAY OF OBEDIENCE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT LEADS TO ETERNAL LIFE AND SALVATION.

<u>Matthew 7:13 & 14: -</u> "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."

- The pathway that we walk along (that is, the way we live our lives) is within our own power of choice. On one side there is nothing going for it; on the other pathway there is everything to gain for all eternity. The following Scripture passages clearly highlight and distinguish these two pathways and eternal destinies that we all have to choose from. They need little or no comment.
- Psalms 145:20: "The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy."

Those who love the Lord are defined as being those who keep his Commandments.

Exodus 20:6: - "And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

<u>Nehemiah 1:5: -</u> "And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, **that keepeth** covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments."

<u>Daniel 9:4: -</u> "And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments."

John 14:15: - "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

<u>1 John 5:2 & 3: -</u> "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. **For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments:** and his commandments are not grievous."

The wicked are clearly defined as being Commandment breakers.

Psalms 119:53: - "Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law."

Psalms 119:155: - "Salvation [is] far from the wicked: for they seek not thy statutes."

- <u>Proverbs 11:6:</u> "The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in [their own] naughtiness."
- Proverbs 11:19: "As righteousness [tendeth] to life: so he that pursueth evil [pursueth it] to his own death."

Ecclesiastes 8:11-13: - "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his [days] be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong [his] days, [which are] as a shadow; because he feareth not before God."

Fearing the Lord is defined as being a Commandment keeper.

<u>Deuteronomy 5:29:</u> "O that there were such an heart in them, **that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always,** that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"

<u>Psalms 112:1: -</u> "Praise ye the LORD. **Blessed [is] the man [that] feareth the LORD, [that] delighteth greatly in his commandments."**

<u>Ecclesiastes 12:13: -</u> "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God**, **and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.**"

- <u>Isaiah 3:10 & 11: -</u> "Say ye to the righteous, that [it shall be] well [with him]: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked! [it shall be] ill [with him]: for the reward of his hands shall be given him."
- Jeremiah 17:5-8: "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, [in] a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed [is] the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."
- Ezekiel 18:26-28: "When a righteous [man] turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die. Again, when the wicked [man] turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

• THE TWO RESURRECTIONS: -

Acts 24:15: - "And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust."

<u>John 5:28 & 29:</u> "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

<u>Daniel 12:2: -</u> "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt."

Romans 2:5-11: - "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil,

of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."

God's Law of 10 Commandments is the truth.

Nehemiah 9:13: - "Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, **and true laws**, good statutes and commandments."

<u>Psalms 119:142 & 151:</u> "Thy righteousness [is] an everlasting righteousness, **and thy law [is] the truth.** ... Thou [art] near, O LORD; **and all thy commandments [are] truth.**"

The unrighteous people mentioned in <u>Romans 2:8</u> did not obey the truth – they did not obey the Law of God; but they obeyed unrighteousness or sin, as "All unrighteousness is sin" - 1 John 5:17.

- Romans 6:16-23: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- <u>2 Corinthians 5:10:</u> "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad."
- <u>2 Thessalonians 2:10-13: -</u> "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth."

NB: - "All unrighteousness is $\sin'' - \frac{1 \text{ John } 5:17.}{1 \text{ In first group of people in the above passage had pleasure in sin or unrighteousness.}$

• 1 John 3:7-10: - "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother."

All God's Commandments are righteousness

Psalms 119:172: - "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments [are] righteousness."

Therefore a righteous person would be someone who keeps all of God's Commandments. This truth is illustrated in the following passage concerning John the Baptist's parents.

<u>Luke 1:5 & 6: -</u> "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife [was] of the daughters of Aaron, and her name [was] Elisabeth. **And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.**"

• 3 John 11: - "Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."

God's Law of Ten Commandments is good.

Romans 7:12 & 13: - "Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful."

Therefore he who does good must be a Commandment-keeper.

The person who transgresses God's Law is committing sin, and has neither seen or known God. This is doing the evil that is referred to in 3 John 11.

1 John 3:4 & 6: - "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. ... Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him."

<u>Joshua 24:15: -</u> "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that [were] on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."