

FINDING THE PATH THAT LEADS UNTO LIFE: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

It was by continued obedience and love to God that man had access to the tree of life. This tree of life gave the partaker of its fruits, the holy sustenance to live eternally. When mankind fell into sin and transgression, the way of life was barred to him by a flaming sword! God did not want lives to continue eternally in disobedience, growing worse and worse.

Genesis 3:22 - 24: - "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

"... to keep the way of the tree of life."

The good news of the Gospel is that the story does not end here in Genesis. God sent his Son Jesus Christ into the world to die for OUR sins, and restore the relationship with the Father that was lost through transgression. And through Jesus Christ, man can also find again the way back to the tree of life.

John 3:16: - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 14:6: - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

"Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence [is] fulness of joy; at thy right hand [there are] pleasures for evermore." - Psalms 16:11

We can only learn of the correct pathway that leads unto life from the words of God himself, and not through any other means. His word ALONE sheds light upon our pathway.

Psalms 119:105: - "Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"

As we enter into God's word, he imparts more and more light upon us.

Proverbs 4:18: - "But the path of the just [is] as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

What does Jesus say of the pathway that leads unto life?

Matthew 7:14: - "Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

NOTE: - Few people will actually find the pathway that leads unto life. Is this a shock to you, when you see the great numbers of professed Christians out there in the world? Obviously from this prophesy of Christ, we should not expect numbers to be on the side of truth. Few will even find the gateway! Remember that it is God's word alone that shines on that pathway that leads unto life. Traditions of men will never illuminate this little known pathway of old.

Let's have a look at God's word **just as it reads**, and switch on the Light, to find that illusive path!

SWITCH ON THE LIGHT!

We can be certain from the promises of the Saviour to the overcomer, that Jesus intends his followers to enter into the pathway that leads them unto the tree of life.

Revelation 2:7: - "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

Revelation 22:12 - 14: - "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

NOTE: - Here, Jesus' points the way towards the tree of life, and says "Blessed are they that do his commandments (i.e. the Father's commandments), that they may have right to the tree of life..." Those who have red letter Bibles, need to remember that **the colour coding** indicating who is speaking is not of divine origin. It was put in by fallible men. If we read this in the plain black and white, we find that Jesus is indeed speaking in verse 12, and is thus talking about his Father's commandments, and that keeping them gives you the right to the tree of life. Here we have the divine authority that will accurately direct our steps. Let's go on! God is consistent. We can trust in Christ to agree with the word's of God, and the true light will shine out!

John 14:10: - "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."

What does God say about his commandments in association with the way that leads unto life?

Proverbs 6:23: - "For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life."

Proverbs 12:28: - "In the way of righteousness [is] life; and [in] the pathway [thereof there is] no death."

NOTE: - Righteousness is defined in the scripture as keeping God's law.

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

1 John 3:4 - 7: - "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous."

Proverbs 13:12 - 14: - "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but [when] the desire cometh, [it is] a tree of life. Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise [is] a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

Psalms 119:34, 35: - "Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with [my] whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight."

Proverbs 2:6-9: - "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: [he is] a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints. Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; [yea], every good path."

God gives us the choice between the way of life and the way of death. It is up to us as to what we do with this message. Will we show our faith by our works?

Jeremiah 21:8: - "...Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."

James 2:14, 17, 18: - "What [doth it] profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."

It is our fruits or works in this life that determines our eternal destiny. God wants us to have the fruits/works of righteousness.

Proverbs 11:30, 31: - "The fruit of the righteous [is] a tree of life; and he that winneth souls [is] wise. Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner."

Philippians 1:11: - "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."

God wants us to manifest or show forth our fruits.

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."

NOTE: - God wants his righteousness manifested in our lives by a working faith.

Romans 1:17, 18: - "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

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

EXODUS 20:3 - 17:-

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness [of any thing] that [is] in heaven above, or that [is] in the earth beneath, or that [is] in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day [is] the sabbath of the LORD thy God: [in it] thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that [is] within thy gates: For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

5. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

6. Thou shalt not kill.

7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

8. Thou shalt not steal.

9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour's.

In the heart of God's righteousness, i.e. his holy Law of 10 Commandments there shines a commandment that truly restores the old pathway that leads unto the tree of life. By keeping the seventh day **Saturday** Sabbath truly, we can witness for the old pathway that leads unto life.

Isaiah 58:12 -14: - "And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in. If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, [from] doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking [thine own] words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it]."

The seventh day **Saturday** Sabbath, was there in the beginning at Genesis (Genesis 2:1 - 3), in the unfallen world, and it points back to the time when men had access to the tree of life. And it shall be kept in the new earth, when the obedient will once again partake of the tree of life, and worship before God and serve him.

Isaiah 66:22 - 23: - "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

Revelation 22:1 - 3, 14: - "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: ... **Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.**"