

I had been talking to an older man about the Way<sup>1</sup>, emphasizing the glory of God and the home that He has prepared for us after this temporary life. The man seemed to respond to the message, but he voiced doubts similar to those that I had heard often from other people.

“What if all of this is not true,” he asked me. “What if I give my life to this and there is nothing to gain – no reward or life beyond this one? I will have missed out on so many things that would have made this life great!” He had many other questions as well, about the “goodness” of God, which greatly affected his thinking.

This was not an attack, such as happened to the Teacher so many times<sup>2</sup>, but it was a confrontation that in a way centered on the real issues concerning the Kingdom. The critical question is: “Is the Way something terrible that we have to endure to obtain a final reward, or is the Way something good in and of itself – something of great value that stands alone?”

I tried to explain that the Way was a worthy path, that it is the best way to live in spite of the struggles of life. What we live here is actually life in the earthly Kingdom. As the Teacher said, “the Kingdom of God is in your midst (or within you)<sup>3</sup>.” In walking the Way we are looking at the earthly Kingdom now, and looking forward to the heavenly Kingdom for eternity – thinking of one without the other is an incomplete view of things.

Our brother Paul gave two perspectives; on the one hand he indicated that if the Way was not True, then those who follow it have done so in futility, being still lost in their sins such that they are the most pitiful of all people<sup>4</sup>.” If the dead are not raised, in his words people might say, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.<sup>5</sup>” On the other hand, he considered the loss of all things worth it to know Christ as Lord<sup>6</sup> (knowing His loving sacrifice, not just looking to reward or salvation). In walking the Way still have the most worthy life and purpose, and according to the Teacher we have the most abundant life possible<sup>7</sup>.

The reason the Way is Worthy is because of the story of Godly self-sacrifice, that is, the eternal gift of Christ, who is the worthy lamb that was slain<sup>8</sup>. There is nothing conceivable that could be more worthy than this. It is the way to the glory of the Father<sup>9</sup>. To walk in this way is to pursue this ultimate Goodness. It is the best life no matter what we lose in the process, or who might be critical of us. The reward is that which arises from following the Way itself<sup>10</sup>. When we look back at our lives, we can know that we have followed the most worthy path in the universe.

The Way is a journey, not just a destination. I may not be able to see the complete route at once, but I know love when I see it, and that is what I am following! I believe in its ultimate destination of this continual journey – it is the way to the Father<sup>11</sup>. The next level is to walk with God in a New Garden<sup>12</sup> in the everlasting Way of Worthiness. I don’t know if I convinced my discussion companion of the power of this Way, but it strengthened my commitment to walking the Worthy Way – no matter what!

1. Paul is the one who referred to our following Christ as the Way; see Acts 9:2, Acts 18:26, Acts 19:9, Acts 19:23, Acts 22:4, Acts 24:14, and Acts 24:22
2. Jesus was attacked many times by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and priests, etc, even a few times by his own people
3. Luke 17:20-21
4. 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

5. 1 Corinthians 15:30-32
6. Philippians 3:8
7. John 10:10
8. Revelation 5:9-10, 12
9. John 14:5-6
10. "The highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.  
commonly attributed to John Ruskin
12. a new heavens and earth; see Isaiah 65:17, Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:13, and Revelation 21:1;  
Eden restored described in Revelation 22
11. John 14:6; Christ told us that He was the way to the Father

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