



Church Without Walls

FOR THE LOVE OF
GOD
MINISTRIES

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him.
For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

TWO PATHS

Matthew 7:13

You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.

NLT

The road that you choose to walk is exactly that....a choice. People are often heard to say, God is a good and merciful God, He will not send me to hell. I can live exactly the way I want to and there will be no reprimands. What is true, is, that God does not consign people to hell....they consign themselves. These are the ones who have chosen the easy way or the wide gate.

One of the laws of electricity is that the current flow will always take the path of least resistance. People are just like that, they like to just go with the flow. They don't want to be hindered by God or laws or anything else that may be construed as work. One of America's greatest debt problems is welfare. These are people who always pray, "My name is Jimmy and I will take all that you gimme." One of the axioms of corporate business is that, twenty percent of the people do eighty percent of the work and that eighty percent only do twenty. This may also pertain to religious circles. At this point I believe that I would be safe in saying that for those who do get to heaven the twenty percent who did all the work on earth will also reap eighty percent of the rewards that God has waiting for them. The writer of the Book of Hebrews gives us these words:

Hebrews 11:6

So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. NLT

God does reward!

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-9 The apostle Paul gives us these words : I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me — that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. After that, he was seen by more than five hundred of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died by now. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, I saw him, too, long after the others, as though I had been born at the wrong time. For I am the least of all the apostles, and I am not worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted the church of God. NLT

It is important to note here that at the ascension of the Lord there were five hundred who witnessed this great and mighty event. It is interesting that according to the word of God truth can be established in the mouths of two or three witnesses.

Luke the physician writes these words describing the upper room experience shortly after the ascension of Christ. Acts 1:14-15. They all met together continually for prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus. During this time, on a day when about 120 believers were present, Peter stood up and addressed them as follows: NLT

Notice that only 120 showed up for prayer time. That means that 380 of the other witnesses found something else to do. In essence only 120 chose to walk the narrow path. Things haven't changed much today. Church picnics are wonderful to attend because it is fun but when the church meets for prayer to intercede for a lost generation other things seem to take precedence.

Roughly 25 percent took the narrow road and 75 percent took the broad road.

It is sad to say that we have become a nation of takers, whiners and a people who live on excuses. The Bible was given to us by Almighty God for our benefit, not His. He wants us to learn from it and to be saved and welcomed into His presence. The Lord Jesus Himself spoke to thousands to bless them and to teach them. In Luke 14:16-24 Jesus speaks of those who were prone to making excuses and desirous of taking the easy path.

Jesus replied with this illustration: "A man prepared a great feast and sent out many invitations. When all was ready, he sent his servant around to notify the guests that it was time for them to come. But they all began making excuses. One said he had just bought a field and wanted to inspect it, so he asked to be excused. Another said he had just bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out. Another had just been married, so he said he couldn't come. "The servant returned and told his master what they had said. His master was angry and said, 'Go quickly into the streets and alleys of the city and invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.' After the servant had done this, he reported, 'There is still room for more.' So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I invited first will get even the smallest taste of what I had prepared for them.' " NLT

Be Ready for the Lord's Coming

In Luke 12:34-48 Jesus admonishes us to be ready for His soon return.....are you?

"Be dressed for service and well prepared, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. There will be special favor for those who are ready and waiting for his return. I tell you, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, there will be special favor for his servants who are ready!

"Know this: A homeowner who knew exactly when a burglar was coming would not permit the house to be broken into. You must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected."

Peter asked, "Lord, is this illustration just for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "I'm talking to any faithful, sensible servant to whom the master gives the responsibility of managing his household and feeding his family. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a

reward. I assure you, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and begins oppressing the other servants, partying, and getting drunk — well, the master will return unannounced and unexpected. He will tear the servant apart and banish him with the unfaithful. The servant will be severely punished, for though he knew his duty, he refused to do it. "But people who are not aware that they are doing wrong will be punished only lightly. Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given. NLT

Many things are to be found and encountered in the narrow path. Oft times they are difficult, painful and lengthy. They can be tedious and menial. It is comforting to know that Our Lord, Redeemer, and Savior did not choose the wide road but took the narrow and because He did, you and I can have life eternal.

Mark 10:42-45 Jesus called them together and said, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many." NLT

Matthew 10:34-11:1 "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, I came to bring a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. Your enemies will be right in your own household! If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it. "Anyone who welcomes you is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me. If you welcome a prophet as one who speaks for God, you will receive the same reward a prophet gets. And if you welcome good and godly people because of their godliness, you will be given a reward like theirs. And if you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." NLT

At this point you may be saying to yourself, I know Lord, but who am I? I'm only a waitress, a janitor, a mechanic, a school teacher, I'm only a soldier serving in a foreign land and I don't have exceptional talents, what about me?

Colossians 3:23 Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and the Master you are serving is Christ. But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites who can get away with evil. NLT

Acts 10:34 Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God doesn't show partiality. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. NLT

Revelation 22:12-13

"See, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay all according to their deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

A Deck of Cards

It was quiet that day, the guns and the mortars,
and land mines for some reason hadn't been heard.

The young soldier knew it was Sunday,
the holiest day of the week.

As he was sitting there, he got out an old deck of cards
and laid them out across his bunk.

Just then an army sergeant came in and said,
"Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon?"

The soldier replied,
"I thought I would stay behind and spend some time
with the Lord."

The sergeant said,
"Looks to me like you're going to play cards."

The soldier said,
"No, sir. You see, since we are not allowed to have
Bibles or other spiritual books in this country,

I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards."

The sergeant asked in disbelief,
"How will you do that?"

"You see the **Ace**, Sergeant?
It reminds me that there is only one God.

The **Two** represents the two parts of the Bible,
Old and New Testaments.

The **Three** represents
the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost.

The **Four** stands for the Four Gospels:
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The **Five** is for the five virgins
that were ten but only five of them were glorified.

The **Six** is for the six days
it took God to create the Heavens and Earth.

The **Seven** is for the day God rested
after making His Creation.

The **Eight** is for the family of Noah and his wife,
their three sons and their wives - the eight people God
spared from
the flood that destroyed the earth.

The **Nine** is for the lepers
that Jesus cleansed of leprosy.
He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked Him.

The **Ten** represents the Ten Commandments
that God handed down to Moses on tablets made of
stone.

The **Jack** is a reminder of Satan,
one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of
heaven for his sly and wicked ways
and is now the joker of eternal hell.

The **Queen** stands for the Virgin Mary.

The **King** stands for Jesus,
for he is the King of all kings.

When I count the dots on all the cards,

I come up with 365 total,
one for every day of the year.

There are a total of 52 cards in a deck;
each is a week - 52 weeks in a year.

The four suits represent the four seasons:
Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Each suit has thirteen cards
- there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter

So when I want to talk to God and thank Him,

I just pull out this old deck of cards
and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful
for

The sergeant just stood there. After a minute,
with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said,
"Soldier, may I borrow that deck of cards?"

Please let this be a reminder and take time to pray
for all of our soldiers
who are being sent away, putting their lives on the
line fighting for us!

Prayer for the Military

This will only take a few seconds of your time,
but it'll be worth it.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.
Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and
their families for
the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of
need.

I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Smile

Paraphrasing the Prodigal Son

The Final Fixing of the Foolish Fugitive":

"Feeling footloose, fancy-free, and frisky, this feather-brained fellow finagled his fond father into forking over his fortune. Forthwith, he fled for foreign fields and frittered his farthings feasting fabulously with fair-weather friends. Finally, facing famine, and fleeced by his fellows in folly, he found himself a feed flinger in a filthy farm lot. He fain would have filled his frame with foraged food from the fodder fragments.

"'Fooy! My father's flunkies fare far fancier,' the frazzled fugitive fumed feverishly, frankly facing fact. "Frustrated from failure and filled with forebodings, he fled for his family.

"Falling at his father's feet, he floundered forlornly. 'Father, I have flunked and fruitlessly forfeited further family favors. . .'

"But the faithful father, forestalling further flinching, frantically flagged his flunkies to fetch forth the finest fatling and fix a feast.

"But the fugitive's fault-finding frater, faithfully farming his father's fields for free, frowned at this fickle forgiveness of former falderal. His fury flashed, but fussing was futile.

"His foresighted father figured, 'Such filial fidelity is fine, but what forbids fervent festivities? The fugitive is found! Unfurl the flags! With fanfare flaring, let fun, frolic, and frivolity flow freely, former failures forgotten and folly forsaken. Forgiveness forms a firm foundation for future fortitude.'"



**To Know the Bible
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Wonderful
To know the Author
Is better**

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ANOTHER WARRIOR GOES HOME

ROGER CLEM USMC

1948--2008

VIETNAM VETERAN 1967-68

WENT TO WAR AS A BOY

CAME HOME A MAN

SEMPER FI MY FRIEND, SEMPER FI