

What Standard Are You Under?

We have only two choices, man's or GOD's! Unfortunately, some believe that there is a broad-way that leads unto heaven. Is there? If so where do you find it? In man's imagination or in God's inspired Word? We do not have enough space to print all of man's theories but we can see through the inspired Word of God man's failures and God's truths, demonstrated. I'm sad to say that I have been guilty of tuning out wickedness in movies that I have watched (PG), that places me in that "broad-way".

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide {is} the gate and broad {is} the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. (Mat.3:17).

My beloved, listen to John; "And as John was finishing his course, he said, `Who do you think I am? I am not {He}. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'(Acts 13:25) Listen to our Lord and Savior; "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad. (Mat.12:30) Are we with Christ?

Is there a broad-way that leads to heaven or has Satan white washed SIN? Again listen to God's inspired Word; "I listened and heard, {but} they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, saying, `What have I done?' Everyone turned to his own course, as the horse rushes into the battle. (Jer.8:6);"Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! (Isa.5:20); For the land is full of adulterers; for because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, and their might {is} not right. (Jer.23:10). Brethren, evil is not good and good is not evil, just as bitter is not sweet nor is sweet bitter.

I was talking with a beloved sister and she made this comment, "to many Christians do not understand the ramifications of coarse jesting nor those that listen to it." I'm sorry to say that her observation is correct. "neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks." (Eph.5:4) You and I, need always to continue in self examination of our path, Satan is out to deceive us at every opportunity we give him. He is a master at camouflage. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,

seeking whom he may devour." (1Pet.5:8);"and {that} they may come to their senses {and escape} the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to {do} his will."(2Tim.2:26)

In closing, let us look at a few basic scriptures with reverence and a prayerful attitude and see if we can determine what the Almighty God of heaven requires of us as His children. "These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know {them}, because they are spiritually discerned."(1Cor.2:13-14) "All Scripture {is} given by inspiration of God, and {is} profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2Tim.3:16-17) We can clearly see that God's Word is the place to turn if we want to know of austerity what God wants us to be spiritually. With the afore-mentioned scriptures before us, it is apparent to all that the Bible is the only place for instruction in spiritual matters.

Beloved, I leave you with these closing thoughts; "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have {free} course and be glorified, just as {it is} with you" (2Thes. 3:1) and "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (Jam.4:7)

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it {spring} the issues of life." (Pro.4:23)