



*How
Narrow?*

*Enter the
NARROW WAY*



A Difficult 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. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”
Matthew 7:13-14

If you had your choice of climbing up 12 stories of stairs or taking an elevator up, which one would you choose? It might depend on whether you were actively pursuing some kind of physical training for better health. It might also depend on how tired you were when presented the option. And it could be that you always take the elevator and never take the stairs.

The point is that when we are presented with options and one of the alternatives is easier than the other it is very natural to choose the easiest path. However, the easiest path is not always the best path. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus declares that the broad, easy way is one that leads to destruction. If

we want to find life then it is found on the narrow, difficult path.

Our first article in this issue deals with these alternative paths. We are publishing several articles by the late Quinton Gage (1928-2016). Some of these articles appeared in past years in the **Foundation Forum**, a past publication of the Arch L. Ferguson Foundation. Some are from other sources and a few may just be some sermon notes that Quinton passed along to me. I tried to document the source of first publication when I knew the source. We also are publishing a couple of articles by Timothy D. Hall.

Quinton encourages us to be Soul Winners and also reminds us that we can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us. We can even make the difficult choices that lead to life.

...lsg



Volume 37 - Number 6 - Nov/Dec 2018
BC is published every other month. Send all inquiries, address changes and subscriptions to the editor: L Scott Gage, PO Box 3425, Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425 Voice 479-521-6809 Email: Lsgage129@cs.com

www.basicchristianity.net

God, train others to do so, and work to bear fruit

Evangelists: Do the work God has given you, make the preaching of the Cross effective in order to save souls.

...something we refer to as habituation tends to dull our reaction to things.

Whether we call them warnings, teachings, or instructions, it amounts to the same thing. We will be judged by the word of God. (Jn. 12:48)

Do we have a problem? Yes, something we refer to as habituation tends to dull our reaction to things. Some of you, as you read this, know you have a warning light on the dash of your auto that says, “check engine”. It shines every time you activate the ignition, but you are accustomed to it and think you know the cause of it and do not feel a need to check further. Some of us rarely read the information or warning lists that come with the medication we are taking.

Ignore the medication warning or the check engine light if you like, but do not ignore God or the warnings and instructions he has given us.

Quinton Gage (1928-2016)

“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

2 Peter 3:8-10

If you or someone you know would like to receive BC, send the name and mailing address to:

Basic Christianity

PO Box 3425

Fayetteville, AR 72702-3425

Or

Lsgage129@cs.com

We Live in a World of Warnings

We live in a world of warnings – from the labels on medicines reading BE CAREFUL!!! to the dates on perishable food items and to the variety of warning systems on our automobiles. Currently media reports are warning about mortgage foreclosures in an effort to make us more aware of the direction we are headed.

From the time of the creation, God has used a warning system to help mankind stay in tune with the Almighty Creator. The first warning, “Don’t eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil”, seems to have fallen on deaf ears. It doesn’t matter why the warning was ignored, even though mother Eve really believed the lie Satan told, she still had to pay the consequences.

God has always warned the human race of impending danger and continues to do so today.

God has always warned the human race of impending danger and continues to do so today. “Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear to the saving of his house.” (Heb. 11:7)

When Jesus was teaching about the coming disaster on Jerusalem (Matt. 24), He instructed

those who were prepared by being Christians that they should flee the city when certain events transpired. They were warned ahead of time, so they would be ready for coming events.

Mankind today has been warned of a coming fire that will dissolve the earth and the works in it...

Mankind today has been warned of a coming fire that will dissolve the earth and the works in it, but there has been instruction given to enable man to escape the impending disaster. Man has been warned about the second death (which is the lake of fire) and is instructed as to how he can escape the second death.

Christians should live to influence others. (Matt. 5:16; Jn. 15:1,6) We should be good stewards of the temporal blessings God has given us. We need to thank God regularly for men with foresight that have and are making contributions, so the work of the church might be carried on past their life:

Parents: train the child properly and trust God to carry through (Eph. 6:4)

Elders: Feed, Shepherd, Watch (Acts 20:28)

Deacons: Hold the truths of

How Narrow?

Early in the ministry of Christ he delivered the Sermon on the Mount in which he described the road to eternal life as being a narrow road with a strait gate at the entrance. My question “just how narrow is this way?” Is this way narrowed by conditions set in place by God, or are these conditions constantly changing? I am firmly convinced we have changed our standards during the last fifty years and these include our morality, our religious convictions, the way we look at most everything.

Is this way narrowed by conditions set in place by God, or are these conditions constantly changing?

In Phil. 3: 18,19 Paul tells the Philippians that many who claim a relationship with Christ and Christians are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Is this a possibility today? Can individual who claims to belong to God actually be an enemy of the cross?

Jesus had enemies during his personal ministry. Many of the citizens of that time were not in tune with Jesus and his Teachings. Jesus taught “He that is not with me is against Me” and that principle still holds to be fact today. His enemies ques-

tioned His authority, his teaching and used every opportunity to be critical of Him and his teaching.

Saul of Tarsus began his religious career as an enemy of the Cross of Christ, so he was in a good position to recognize others who were enemies. During his church life he was falsely accused, arrested, beaten, stoned and went on trial for his life because of those who were enemies. Who were those enemies? Were they persons who were upset because of the moral principles Paul taught? Or, were they those who had espoused a false religion, a perverted gospel? Although Paul stood in opposition to the immoral practices of the pagan world, most of his opposition came from the teachers who followed in his path and taught the Gentles it was necessary to keep the Old Law in order to have salvation. (Phil. 3:2)

How do we measure up today? Are we enemies or friends of Christ? If we are friends with the world, we are enemies. If we are following another gospel, we are enemies.

If we are rejecting his teaching, all or part, we may not have the necessary dress or equipment to enter the strait gate and walk the narrow way. If we are not good stewards of the blessings God

has given us, we may be counted as enemies.

If we are not gathering, we are scattering – so we need to have the mind of Christ, (Phil. 2:5), walk by the same rule, mind the same thing, (Phil. 3:15,16) and stand firm and united against error, immorality, and with fervor pursue the real teachings of Christ.

Soul Winners

A song written by H.W. Ferrill says “I want to be a soul winner for Jesus every day, He’s done so much for me; I want to aid the lost sinner to leave his erring way and be from bondage free.”

Soul winning is a very important part of the Christian life and there are many reasons why we should be soul winners. During the last few years, a team from Evangelistic Outreach has conducted soul-winning workshops in a number of congregations in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas and a few in other states.

The object of the workshop is to show church members how to locate prospects, set up and conduct studies with the idea in mind of converting people to Christianity and baptizing them into the Family of God.

I recently heard a sermon listing several reasons why we should be soul winners and some of

1 Cor. 15:33 warns us to be careful of our associates lest those associates take us away from the narrow way.is

...Quinton Gage (1928-2016)
Colbert, Oklahoma
Foundation Forum March 2007

those reasons given I remember.

SOULS ARE LOST WITHOUT CHRIST:

This is the statement of Jesus in John 3:36 “He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

LOVE PROMPTS US TO BE SOUL WINNERS:

The power of suffering love shown us by God and Christ prompts us to tell others about Christ. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

RESPONSIBILITY PRESSES US:

Paul wrote “I am a debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians, both to the wise and to the unwise”

though they did not believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. Another sermon from the same preacher advocated the ordination of homosexuals. How far will we go before we stop and realize we will be judged by the word of God. (Jn. 12:48)

We Can. But we won’t unless we are willing to start next door with the neighbor we know.

We can bear fruit as John 15 teaches. We can fulfill the Great Commission, not by our own power but with the strength Christ give us. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” was the command from our Savior. We Can, We Can, We Can. But we won’t unless we are willing to start next door with the neighbor we know.

Rom. 7:25, “So then I of myself with the mind, indeed, serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.” Paul is speaking of himself as a Christian, and it follows that what he says is true of every Christian. To serve God “with the mind” is the same as to worship in spirit and truth”. No man can do that which is right without faith in Christ to help him hold in check the evil we meet each day. With that faith we must hold a love for Christ, the Church and the truth of God. The law of Moses gave a standard of morality, but they fell short of it. Solomon with all

his wisdom is a striking example of the weakness of the flesh.

Paul asked, “Who shall deliver me?” Then he answers in Romans 8:1-11 by saying:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus.” What the law could not do has been accomplished by the sending of God’s Son, if we walk after the spirit and not after the flesh. Immorality, indifference, negligence, all of the works of the flesh, false doctrines or any bad thing can be overcome through Jesus Christ. The list of things we gave that can be accomplished through Christ is by no means complete, but we hope there are enough to start us to thinking.

Christians are winners! Overcomers! Victors! Be certain you are one.

Quinton Gage (1928-2016)

Gospel Tidings November 2006

No man can do that which is right without faith in Christ to help him hold in check the evil we meet each day. With that faith we must hold a love for Christ, the Church and the truth of God.

things God does care about and we probably would be well advised to make a list of those things. If you were making such a list, what would you include?

Salvation from and sin and for eternity. This was the original plan from the beginning of sin. We can have this through Jesus Christ our Lord and through Him only. I recently received a sermon from a preacher in one of the leading denominations of our day that salvation was not only for Christians but for all other religions as well. How different that sounds from the message of Christ during his personal ministry and throughout all the New Testament. Have we reached the point where we no longer believe it necessary to believe Christ, accept Him as the Messiah, and obey Him? The answer is YES—much of the world labors under the error that all men will be saved regardless of what is practiced.

Have we reached the point where we no longer believe it necessary to believe Christ?

An acceptable worship of God. When the woman at the well in John 4 asked Jesus about worship, she was taught that God wants us to worship Him, but it has to be in spirit and in truth. So, it is important for us to render that worship we have within us in the right way and with the right attitude.

A righteous way of living and teaching. When I read Romans 7, I am left with the impression that Paul experienced the same difficulties we have in fulfilling the life and work given to him

If Paul were living today, no doubt, we would have regarded him as a narrow-minded individual.

by the direction of the Holy Spirit He had suffered much in his effort to preach the good news to the world, beatings, imprisonment, rejection by brethren and the list goes on. Surely, we realize he suffered these things because of his refusal to compromise with error. If Paul were living today, no doubt, we would have regarded him as a narrow-minded individual. Surely, he could have done a better work and built larger congregations if he hadn't been so hard and strait-laced in Athens and Ephesus when he objected to idol worship; in Galatia he could have done a much more effective work had he compromised with the Jewish teachers and instructed those churches to continue to keep the Law of Moses. Then if he had not been so dogmatic the Jews from Antioch and Iconium would not have thought it necessary to stone him to death.

I mentioned the sermon from a preacher in one of the larger denominations teaching that all religions would be saved even

Spouses are responsible for and to each other. Parents are responsible for children. Christians are responsible for their neighbors. We have the responsibility to teach and lead the lost to Christ—and the responsibility of keeping them saved.

Soul winning is a very important part of the Christian life and there are many reasons why we should be soul winners.

However, despite the fact we all can wield influence on others, Paul tells us we are all members of the same body and yet we have different functions. Not everyone is equipped to go to another continent to win souls. Not everyone develops the ability to go to any strange environment to win souls. But we can send someone to another nation, or another town or even next door.

I think this might have been the vision of Brother Ferguson when he began to plan and arrange for the Ferguson Foundation to continue to assist with benevolent and church work after he was no longer in the front of the battle.

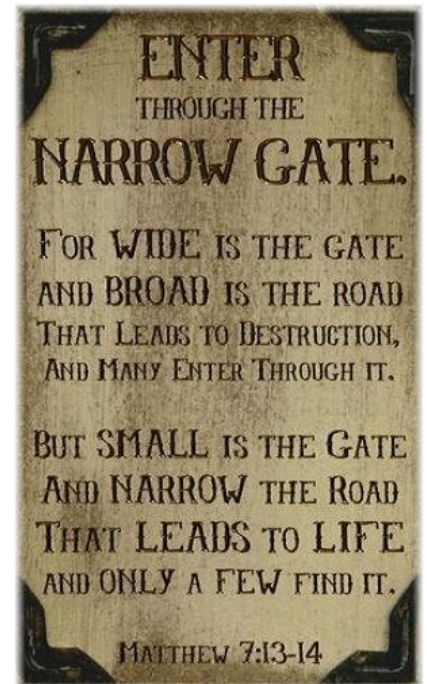
Brother Ferguson has left us the machine to help us in winning souls. Alone, there is not much I can accomplish – but with the help of others I can do some-

thing to take the glorious gospel of Christ to someone in this world.

If you are not familiar with the foundation and its work, learn about it. It is designed to work through the local congregation of the Church.

Together we are winners, overcomers, victors with Christ.

...Quinton Gage (1928-2016)
Colbert, Oklahoma
Foundation Forum September 2006



A Den of Snakes

Vera Oliphant is like most 16-year-olds; she spends a good bit of time on her cell phone. When she went to visit her uncle, who lives in a desert area outside of San Diego, she couldn't pick up a signal for her phone. She began walking up a hill in hopes of catching a signal at the higher elevation.

Vera said she heard the rattles before spotting the snakes. She instinctively began backing up, but that was the wrong move. The mother rattlesnake, in defense of her territory and her five babies, bit the teenager at least six times. After spending four days in intensive care and receiving 24 vials of anti-venom, Vera will be OK. The nerves in her right leg will be affected for a few years, but she has to count herself lucky to have escaped what could have been a fatal incident.

The advent of smart phones has led to many accidents while the user is distracted. Driving an automobile demands full focus at all times, but many believe they can text or surf safely while driving. Others have learned that even walking while texting can lead to serious consequences. Vera's case, however, is unique. Who ever heard of walking into a den of snakes while using a phone?

On second thought, maybe her case is not unique. Thousands of others, I'm confident, have been led into such a den while using new technologies. No, actual rattlesnakes are not what I have in mind, but a snake of a much more sinister variety.

This "snake" has been around as long as people have populated the earth. In the Garden of Eden this serpent challenged the authority of the One who held the title to the Garden. Eventually

This "snake" has been around as long as people have populated the earth.

he wore down the resistance of Eve, and she broke the one law (that we know of) which God had given her and Adam to observe (Genesis 3:1-6). Soon she and her husband wished they had kept their focus!

David didn't have the technology we today enjoy, but he knew the dangers of losing focus. In Psalm 101:3,4 he shares this wisdom: "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will not know wickedness." Those are words that need to be applied before I pick up my phone, my mouse or my

television remote. So much wickedness to see; such a deadly rattlesnake waiting to strike!

Christians are not immune to such temptations. Paul's warnings to the Christians at Corinth are still needed: "Flee sexual immorality. ... Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

The work of the serpent (Satan) goes on. Those who walk upon this earth do well to remain alert, taking care not to walk into his dens of activity. The venom he inflicts has lethal, eternal effects.

Can anyone deal with such a foe? Yes: "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast out to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9). The One who cast him out of heaven will one day fling him completely out of the paths of God's people (Revelation 20:10). As long as we keep near the Lord, we are safe from this ancient foe (see James 4:7,8).

Come to the light God offers! Study His word, the Bible. Worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Timothy D Hall
LightGrams – Nov. 15, 2012

I Can Do All Things

Other articles in this issue remind us of the dramatic changes made since Grace under Christ became a part of God's Plan for us. Brother Teague wrote about the purpose of the Law, Brother Scott reminds us of the ongoing struggle between the spiritual and the carnal (mind and the flesh) Rom. 7:25, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then I of myself with the mind, indeed, serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin"

OUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST!

Over the last fifty years I have listened to speakers from many walks of life state confidently they could accomplish what they wanted to do with the help of Christ. These assertions have been made at sales conventions and sales meetings, at athletic events. etc. I am not sure God really cares if we win an athletic event, make an unusually large sale or gather together a million dollars. But there are some