

GROUNDED IN A CHRISTIAN LIFE

By Danny Mcguaghey

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It's A Wonderful Life is a favorite movie of mine. In the movie, an angel, named Clarence, is trying to earn his wings. We do not have to earn our "wings." We are not, nor will be, angels. Besides, Jesus has already paid the price for us to be in heaven for eternity. If we are not trying to earn our wings or be good enough while still here on the earth, then what are we doing? We have two choices. "Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14) It's either the wide road, which leads to eternal punishment, or the narrow road, which leads to eternity in heaven. The wide road gives false security, "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:46)

This thing called life is not easy. Satan makes sure of that. The Bible tells us that it rains on the just and the unjust. It also tells us that the Christian will be hated just as Jesus was hated because the Christian stands for the cause of Christ. God has given us choices. A lot of people go down the wrong road, the wide gate, believing all is well.

"Then He told them a parable: "A rich man's land was very productive. He thought to himself, 'What should I do, since I don't have anywhere to store my crops? I will do this,' he said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there. Then I'll say to myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is demanded of you. And the things you have prepared—whose will they be?' "That's how it is with the one who stores up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God." Then He said to His disciples: "Therefore I tell you, don't worry about your life, what you will eat; or about the body, what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: They don't sow or reap; they don't have a storeroom or a barn; yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than the birds? Can any of you add a cubit to his height by worrying?" (Luke 12:15-25) "Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

The wide road has many travelers. They have that attitude of eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow will never come. "He then told them, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15)

One day we ALL will stand before God. "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment," (Hebrews 9:27) This will not be a good day for those on the wide road. The sad thing is that there are a lot of people, both inside and outside the church, who keep one foot in the world and the other in the church. They keep Jesus at a distance and get close to Him when they need Him. You are either in or out; there is no middle lane. "And you are not willing to come to Me so that you may have life." (John 5:40)

So what about this narrow gate or road? It leads to eternal life. It is the only way to live as I can see it. I hope you see it the same way. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Jesus has promised the ones who walk on the narrow road something: "I am the bread of life," Jesus told them. "No one who comes to Me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in Me will ever be thirsty again." "The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead, the

wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:35-36) All one needs to do is get their GPS, the Bible, and follow its instructions. Yes, sometimes Christians, take a detour, but His grace is sufficient and leads back to the narrow road.

The Christian life must be grounded in God’s word. Grounded means, to believe in God, His Son and the truths found in His word. Grounded is a state of mind that comes only from God. The assurances found in the Bible of where this narrow road leads are peace of mind, trust in Him, and access to the Comforter; not a problem-free life, but help (answered prayers) from the Creator with the problems you face, and life eternal in heaven. God’s word is true. You can and must believe it without any doubt. “in the hope of eternal life that God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.” (Titus 1:2) “I have not written to you because you don’t know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie comes from the truth.” I John:2:21) God did not give us His word to mislead us. Rather, He gave it to us to lead us home by staying on the narrow road. There is more to this life than being here on the earth. “If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.” (I Corinthians 15:19)

The straight and narrow way leads to a city like no other. “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.” (Revelation 21:23-27)

I realize that I am preaching to the choir about being grounded in the Christian life. I also believe that we are all in different places in our walk with Jesus. There are times when some just don’t trust Him completely. I say that after learning the hard way that He is always faithful and true. While it may not seem like it, He has you in the palm of His hand. I also believe that someone who might read this needs encouragement in their walk with Jesus. If you are that person, trust Him completely. Perhaps you have a friend who needs encouragement, If so, please share this devotion with them. Don’t give up and never, never stop believing. Always keep Him close and not at a distance. Have a blessed week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJ6RsCVgXoE>