

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” 2 Timothy 2:5 KJV



You are not crowned “the winner” or “the best” unless you play by the rules. You can’t start the race at the finish line! To get ahead at your job you must do as the boss says or you’ll be walking down the road with your lunch box in your hand talking to yourself! We all want success, wealth and health, but few ever attain these, because man’s natural instinct is to rebel against the rules; to look for shortcuts. Work was cursed in Eden and even things we enjoy doing require great effort. God told Adam, *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”* Prizes are not awarded to the slothful or foolish, yet most believe they can gain heaven simply by trying their best. Our best is naught but soiled bandages to God! God’s Word says, *“We are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses (best deeds) are as filthy rags (bloody rags).”* Many believe God is a loving and forgiving God (true), who accepts everyone into heaven, and couldn’t/wouldn’t send anyone to hell (false)! *“The wicked (unbelievers) shall be turned into Hell!”* Yes, God is loving and forgiving, but will only accept sinners IF THEY DO IT HIS WAY! Only one “WAY” leads to heaven! God’s Way! You may want to go to New York, but if you follow the road to Los Angeles, don’t be surprised or disappointed if that’s where you end up. You can’t get to Heaven on the road to Hell! You can’t have Eternal Life or God’s provision unless you obey Him! As long as YOUR decisions and efforts control your life, God will do nothing for you! The scenery may be more pleasant going to Los Angeles, but you’ll never get to New York! You may have more fun on the road to Hell, but you’ll never get to Heaven! *“At [God’s] Right Hand are PLEASURES for evermore!”* You can have temporary pleasure now, or eternal pleasure in Heaven! Those that choose the “narrow way” find more Joy on earth than they ever thought possible. *“The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom...though now ye see Him NOT, yet believing, ye rejoice with JOY UNSPEAKABLE.”* Unbelievers view believers as non-realists, but the Truth is: They see everything more clearly! Children don’t plan for tomorrow; they plan for supper! Men can’t see beyond their lusts enough to count the cost! *“The wages of sin is death.”* Only those who come to Christ and obey His Word evade death! Those who keep dancing and whirling on the “Party Boat to Hell” arrive soon enough! *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD, shall be saved. Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please Him. He that...keepeth not His commandments, is a LIAR!”* True faith obeys God’s Word!

Eternal gain is planned today,
By what I do not what I say,
Through faith I hide my life in Christ,
By trusting Him and doing right. -CGP

Deeds bear witness to faith. *“Faith without works is dead!”* You can stare at food all week, but until you eat it, you will starve to death! Only ONE WAY ends in Heaven!

“Jesus saith unto him, ‘I am THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE: NO MAN cometh unto the Father, BUT BY ME.’” John 14:6 KJV