# WHOLE WHEAT

The truth is simple...just simply not known.

A PUBLICATION FOR BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING

## Who Will Take Your Crown?

"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

Jesus said many times that the <u>one who</u> endures to the end shall be saved (Matt. 10:22; 24:13; 2 Tim. 2:12; Mark 13:13). Endures what? We are to endure overcoming evil, by keeping the deeds that Jesus came to show us and tell us (Rev. 2:26).

Jesus said keeping His commandments in this Way is easy and not burdensome (Matt. 11:30; 1 John 5:3; John 14:15). Remember always, Jesus is our example. He is the light, He is the Way, and He is the truth (John 14:6). Jesus was baptized, leaving us an example that we should be baptized (Mark 1:9; Luke 3:21; Matt. 3:13-16). Jesus washed His disciples' feet, leaving us an example that we should wash one another's feet (John 13:14-15). He also commanded us to keep a special supper with bread and wine, in remembrance of Him, and that we should do this until He comes (1 Cor. 11:24-26).

Jesus also gave us another commandment which the majority of those who profess His name overlook. We are to overcome the evil in our lives as He overcame (Rev. 3:21). This is done by living a life of continually doing good, as Jesus said we should. Jesus continually went about doing good (Acts 10:38). He glorified the Father continually by His good works. As a result, He let His light shine for others to see, and He told His followers to do the same (Matt. 5:16). He gave His disciples instructions on how they should practice

righteousness toward others, and told them they should continue to practice righteousness until it came from their hearts (Matt. 6:1; 5:20; Eph. 6:6). The true disciples of Jesus will be doing these things when He returns to this earth.

#### Inside This Issue...

- Who Will Take Your Crown?
- The Broad Way
  3
- Narrow is the Way
- Woman to Woman 6
- What is the Reward of the Saved? 8

"Hear more about the 'Rewards of the Righteous' by clicking here!

To listen to the audible version (VO) of this newsletter go to our newsletter archive page.

**III** = link to more information

Visit us on the web: wholewheatonline.com

### Who Will Take Your Crown?

Now, the question is: Who will take your crown? Who will stop you from doing what you know the Lord requires you to do? Will it be you? Will you stop pursuing God by not studying His word? Will you stop allowing God to show you His Ways that He would have you live?

'Jesus shouted, "He who does not follow Me is not worthy of Me" (Matt. 10:38).'

Will persecution from your spouse cause you to lose your crown? Will your spouse discourage you and try to hold you back? Will he or she be a <u>stumbling block</u> to you? Jesus shouted, "He who does not follow Me is not worthy of Me" (Matt. 10:38).

Jesus is going to test you by using your relatives, your spouse, or your friends to try to discourage you from continuing to live for the Lord. Jesus came to set a man against his father or mother or sister or brother or even his spouse. A man's enemies will be those of his own household (Matt. 10:35-36).

'We must love the Lord more than we love our spouses, mothers, fathers, sons or daughters. These are the words of Jesus Christ Himself.'

We must prove to be <u>litrue disciples</u> of Jesus Christ by <u>liundergoing tests</u> from God and thus, prove our loyalty to Him. We must bear the fruit of righteousness (John 15:8). We are commanded by Jesus to love those who know the truth and are living for Him. We must love the Lord more than we love our spouses, mothers, fathers, sons or daughters. These are the words of Jesus Christ Himself (Matt. 10:37).

Many will fall away. Many will betray one another. Many will hate one another. Jesus said

so Himself in Matthew 24:10. We will be betrayed by parents, brothers, relatives and/or friends; and God's word says they will even put some of us to death (Luke 21:16).

Many who do not receive a love for God's truth, so as to be saved, will be given a spirit of delusion by God and they will believe the beast and the false prophet (2 Thess. 2:10-12). They will receive the mark of the beast because they did not believe the truth. Instead of obeying the truth, they continued to live to the flesh (Rom. 8:13; 2 Thess. 1:8-9). They did not study God's word, pray for others and put God's word into daily practice by serving others.

These words are the whole truth from God's word. You can prove they are true, and you should, by looking up the Scriptures mentioned in this article.

#### Now is the time to stand strong.

Who will take your crown? Will it be you, because of procrastination? Will it be others who discourage you? Now is the time to stand strong. Stand up for what is right—God's word—so you will secure your crown (2 Tim. 4:8).



# The Broad Way



In God's word, there is a way called the broad way, yet not many people know what that way is. God's word says the broad way leads to destruction. In that case, we should know more about that way so we are not part of that destruction. Still, there are many who enter this broad way (Matt. 7:13-14).

# 'God's word says Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9).'

God's word says Satan has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). What is the deception Satan uses? Religion, of course. Religion is the major reason a person could lose his salvation. Jesus said many will come preaching in His name in the last days. In other words, they will be declaring Jesus is the Christ and deceive the many who are on the broad way that leads to destruction (Matt. 24:5).

Jesus repeats this warning in Mark 13:5-6, but in Luke 21:8, He goes a step further, ordering those who want to follow Him in the last days not to go after those who preach in His name.

'Those who come in Jesus' name must qualify by Scripture.'

Does that mean that we should not listen to any man about religious matters? No, it does not. Those who come in Jesus' name must qualify by Scripture. We are to be careful and look at certain Scriptures to see if those men are false prophets or if they are true men of God. We are to be aware of false prophets. We are to examine the way they live their lives (Matt. 7:15-16). True men of God will live their lives to please the Lord (1 John 3:22). They will be examples to their flocks in thought, word and deed. They will look nice, dress nice, talk nice and continually live a life of service to others. They will not use filthy language.

#### 'They will also be telling people how to keep Jesus Christ's works.'

What would true men of God be preaching? First of all, they would be telling people to overcome evil and how to do it (Rev. 3:21). Then, they will be telling people how to keep Jesus Christ's words so they will never see death (John 8:51). They will also be telling people how to keep Jesus Christ's works. Jesus came to show us how to keep His works in our lives, and how to overcome our weakness in the flesh. He came to show us

# The Broad Way

how to build godly character by keeping His works (John 14:12; Rev. 2:26).

God's true ministers are explaining how to do God's Will and perform it daily on this earth, as it is being done in heaven (Matt. 7:21; 12:50; Luke 8:21; John 9:31; 1 John 2:17). They are constantly telling people how to live the Way that Jesus lived. This Way is living daily to please the Father.

These godly ministers will be producing brand <a href="#">• new creatures or creations</a> for the Lord (Gal. 6:15). People will be living brand new lives (Rom. 6:4). People won't be living in the flesh any longer, doing the evil they did in the past. Instead, they will only be doing God's Will daily as it is being done in heaven (1 Peter 4:2). People will be living in the Spirit, doing God's Will to please Him in every respect (1 Peter 4:6). They will be living to the Spirit and thus be putting to death the evil deeds of the flesh (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:16).

Those ministers will be producing people who belong to Christ Jesus. Why? Because they have crucified the flesh with its evil passions and desires (Gal. 5:24). They will be telling people to be careful to engage in good works daily for God's glory (Titus 3:8; Matt. 5:16). They would be telling them to be an example of good works (Titus 2:7) because that's what we were created for in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:10).

#### Overcoming

We <u>lovercome</u> our evil passions and desires by doing good works for God's glory (Psalm 34:14; 37:27; 1 Peter 3:10-13; Rom. 12:21; Rev. 2:26). Disciples of Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago were constantly reminded not to get weary in well-doing (2 Thess. 3:13; Gal. 6:9; Rom. 2:7-10).

Many people profess to know God, but they deny Him by continuing to live detestable and

disobedient lives. Their lives are detestable before God because they remain worthless in doing good works for God's glory (Titus 1:16). They merely remain hearers of the word and remain deluded by those who preach to them weekly (James 1:22). Their faith is useless (James 2:20, 22, 24). Their faith remains dead.

#### Are you awake?

No amount of good works done in the flesh can bring you salvation (Eph. 2:8-9). But good works done in the Spirit in the name of the Lord is how you <u>repent</u> (Eph. 2:10; Col. 3:17; Acts 26:20). Yes, good works are necessary for repentance and repentance is necessary for salvation. This is the narrow Way that few find, not the broad way that many are following to destruction at this time.



# Narrow is the Way



**True discipleship is a Way of life.** It is not only called the Way, it is also called the Way of holiness and the Way of righteousness (Matt. 21:32).

Sometimes the Way is called a gate or a door (Luke 13:24). **Jesus is the door, the bread, the Way, the truth and the life** (John 10:9; 6:41, 48; 14:6). The Way is also called the Way of truth (2 Peter 2:2). This truth must be practiced in order to enter the light (John 3:21). The light, then, is the good life and the good life is the God life or the Way that God lives.

No wonder <u>itrue disciples</u> are told to imitate God, speak like God and discipline themselves for the purpose of godliness (Eph. 5:1; 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Tim. 4:7; 6:3; Titus 1:1). <u>iWe are to walk in Jesus Christ's steps</u> (1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6). Jesus said that the ones who believed in Him would be doing the same works, and even greater works than He did, because His earthly ministry was cut short (John 14:12).

Jesus' faith had works. When you keep Jesus' works by doing the same, you overcome the flesh with its evil passions and desires (Gal. 5:24). And if you endure to the end, Jesus Christ will grant you to sit with Him and rule the nations of this earth with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26; 5:10).

Jesus' Way is easy and pleasant (Matt. 11:30). It is the Way to peace (Luke 1:79; Rom. 3:17). It is the Way of the Lord (Psalm 18:21).

We are to walk in the Way or walk in the truth (2 John 1:4,6). We are to walk in good works (Eph. 2:10). We are to be careful to engage in good works, for the one who actively, continually does good is of God (Titus 3:8; 1 Peter 2:12; 3 John 11). And the one who will not practice righteousness, by doing good, is not of God (1 John 3:7, 10, 18). Simple isn't it?

God is sorting out those who will be the doers of the word and those who will remain hearers (James 1:22, 27). The ministers of Christ's day, called religious Pharisees, wouldn't so much as lift a finger in regard to doing any good for God (Matt. 23:4). They did all their deeds to be noticed by men (Matt. 23:5).

<u>True doers</u> of good works for God are cautioned to have the right attitude (Matt. 6:1-6). They are told to pray in secret and give in secret.

How far removed from the truth of God many are today! It's a good thing there is a tomorrow, so we can immediately correct the situation.

Be a sheep and don't continue to be a goat (Matt. 25:33-46). Do all that you do in good works or good words (cheering up those in hospitals, in nursing homes, or those who are depressed) in the name of Jesus Christ daily, and begin to subject yourself to the

■ righteousness of God (Rom. 10:3). □

## Woman to Woman

### Walking the Narrow Way



Am I walking the narrow Way when I clean my home? Am I walking the narrow Way when I cook for my family? Am I walking the narrow Way when I go shopping? Am I walking the narrow Way when I go out to lunch? Am I walking the narrow Way when I'm on the phone? Am I walking the narrow Way when I sleep? No matter what I am doing, how do I know I'm walking the narrow Way?

Every day we are either walking the broad way, that leads to destruction, or we are walking the narrow Way, that leads to eternal life (Matt. 7:13-14). We choose which path we take by the way we live each day.

Yes, I am walking the narrow Way when I clean my home for God, to be a good servant and make it ready for others. Cooking and serving nutritious meals for others, to please God, is walking the narrow Way. Shopping for groceries, gifts, etc., is walking the narrow Way when I plan to use these items to serve others for God's glory. When I go out for lunch and I take a widow, orphan, or spiritual brother or sister, and do it to please God, I am walking the narrow Way. When I converse on the phone with others to cheer them up or help them in some way, and I mentally do it to please God, I am walking the narrow Way. When I sleep to regain my strength to be a good servant I am walking the narrow Way. No matter what I am doing, if I am doing it in God's Will to please Him and glorify His name, I am walking the narrow Way.

Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do in good words or good deeds, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father." Matthew 5:16 says, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

Walking the narrow Way is a way that is righteous, honest, kind, peaceful, joyful and loving. James 3:17-18 says, "But wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." Remember always, good fruits represent good works in God's word (Col. 1:10).

Walking the narrow Way is every good thing we can imagine. First John 5:14-15 says that if we ask anything according to His Will, He hears us and we will have the requests which we have asked from Him. Walking the narrow Way opens the doors of heaven filled with blessings. How wonderful to live a blessed, content life and come out from under the curse of our old ways. Jesus Christ came to this earth to show us that "narrow Way" that leads to eternal life (Matt. 7:13-14). That is what His short life here on earth and His death were all about. He is our example of how to love and serve others to glorify our Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16). The simplest task we might do is either walking the narrow Way, that leads to eternal life, or the broad way that leads to destruction. Let's examine the way we are walking and get right with God today.

Your Sister in Christ,

Karren

i For more 'Woman to Woman' articles click here.

## Letter From the Editor

Dear Whole Wheat Readers,

Over 30 years ago, I sought for God's truth with all my heart, mind, soul and strength (Jer. 29:13). ... The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it. (Matt. 13:45,46). Just as in the parable before that, *The Hidden* Treasure, when I found what God's Will was, I threw myself into it, with great joy, because I too had found that pearl (the truth) that I had sought for so many years (Matt.13:44). I also threw myself into studying my Bible and like a dry sponge, I soaked up every drop of living water that I could (John 7:38). Instantly I developed a love of the truth (2 Thess. 2:10).

Over the years, tests and trials have come that greatly challenged my faith, and almost shipwrecked me, but the one thing I always come back to is... Once you find God's truth, where else can you go (1 Tim. 1:19)? Back to church? Back to living my own fleshy way? Been there - done that - no thanks. I love this truth, therefore the only alternative was to keep going. It was that love of the truth that saved me. As Winston Churchill said in World War II, when Germany was at England's doorstep, "Never, never, never give up." That's just what I did...I never gave up.

The best advice I can give you, is to develop a love of the truth so as to be saved. Don't give your crown to someone else, like it talks about in our lead article; 'Who Will Take Your Crown?'. God gives us this one life to qualify for His crown of life, and this is it....this is your chance! Why not be all in and reap its full

rewards, as it talks about on the last page; 'What is the Reward of the Saved.'

In between those articles, you will find articles to keep you going for the goal. They will help you to stay on the right path. Like which way not to go - in our article; *The Broad Way* - where I came from, and *Narrow is the Way* - which is the way I am traveling, God willing. Our *Woman to Woman* article, simply and beautifully breaks down *Walking the Narrow Way*, helping us to put all we do into the Will of God. So, we pretty much have the whole spiritual life-cycle is in this issue!

A friend of Whole Wheat just told us he has been sharing wholewheatonline.com with people at work, and one guy was literally weeping over this truth - how beautiful. seems as though this man, too, just discovered the pearl. I pray he will go out and live the life with great gusto! Please pray for him, and for others God may call into this beautiful way of life. We should always be ready to share this truth and be on the lookout for opportunities. By being an example, others will be drawn to It's so easy to share our website, with everything they need to help them learn about, and live, this life. It's all in one place available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. And remember, whatever you do...never, never, never give up, in running the race set before us (Heb. 12:1). It will be worth it in the end... that's a promise of God!

In His Love,

Scott

Your donations make a difference and help us share this lifechanging truth around the world. You can donate via credit card or PayPal by clicking the button below:

**DONATE** 

Or mail to: Whole Wheat, P.O. Box 26217, Minneapolis, MN 55426

## What is the Reward of the Saved?

Satan is temporarily the ruler of this world (John 14:30). God's word says Satan's throne is in Pergamum (now called Bergama), Turkey (Rev. 2:12-13). His fallen angels are currently rulers of this world (Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:20, see margin of

New American Standard Version). But soon Satan will be bound for 1,000 years and eventually disposed of by Jesus Christ (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 19:6; 20:1-3; 7-10).

Those of us who have overcome Satan in our evil natures, by keeping

Christ's deeds, will be the new rulers of this world (Rev. 2:26-27; 1 John 2:14). We will be kings and priests, and we will reign on the earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years (Rev. 5:10; 20:4). We will judge the fallen angels who were ruling with Satan and take their place of rulership (1 Cor. 6:3)!

We will have the power to bind the earth's physical rulers in chains if they do not obey us (Psalm 149:8-9). We will have glorified bodies, like Jesus Christ, which can appear and disappear at will (Phil. 3:20-21). We will tap people on the shoulder and say, "This is the Way, walk in it" (Is. 30:20-21; 35:8). We will be able to drink wine and eat meat with this glorified body (Is. 25:6-9). No weapon of man will

be able to harm us (Isa. 54:17; Luke 20:36). All the nations of this world will go to Jerusalem once a year to be taught how to live God's Way—the Way that is pleasing to Him (Zech. 14:16; Is. 2:2-5; Jer. 3:17).

'We will be kings and priests, and reign on the earth with Jesus Christ for 1,000 years. (Rev. 5:10; 20:4)

We who are overcoming our old natures, by zealously doing deeds of kindness and charity towards others for God, will rule with Christ (1 Peter 3:13; Gal. 6:9; 2 Thess. 3:13; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; Heb. 13:16). Some will be given authority over five cities.

others ten or more (Luke 19:17, 19). Some of us will serve in God's temple in Jerusalem (Rev. 7:15; 22:3).

For now, those who have died will have to wait, like King David, until they hear Christ's voice calling to them in the grave (Psalm 17:15; Job 14:12, 14-15; John 5:25, 28-29). Those who still live and have been found worthy to greet Jesus Christ when He returns will be changed in the twinkling of an eye, and they will never see death (Luke 21:36, King James Version; 1 Cor. 15:52). Isn't this enough incentive to begin a life of righteousness for God today and overcome your evil nature by living God's Way?

#### Click here to listen to our NEW! podcast: 'How to Draw Close to God'



Click here to be notified via email when a new Whole Wheat newsletter is published.