

WHICH WAY?

The Bible Tells Us How to Find the Right Path to God



A Bible Study from the Native Bible Centre

WHICH WAY?



Written by Ken Beichler

Students Name _____

WHICH WAY

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6145 Mowatt Street – Box 81

Wardner, BC V0B 2J0

Toll Free: 1-866-70TRIBE (708-7423)

Email: nbc@interactministries.org

www.nativebiblecentre.org

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PO Box 559

Crossfield, AB T0M 0S0

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WHICH WAY?

INTRODUCTION

Has anyone ever stopped you and asked for directions? They wanted to get to a certain location but were not sure how to get there. I was once lost in the city of Edmonton and in desperation I stopped and asked some people for directions. I was shown a map and given directions on how to get to my destination. When I followed the right directions I arrived at the right place.

This booklet is also about directions. It will show you which way to go. Whether you go the right way or not is completely up to you. You will discover which way leads to happiness and eternal life, but you will also learn what it costs to follow this way. You will need a Bible to do this study.

In this study you will be asked, at times, to read from the Bible and write down an answer. Write down what you think. Do not be worried about right and wrong answers. When you see a reference like John 3:16 you need to know three things.

1. The word *John* is the book of the Bible. There are 66 books in the Bible. If you are not sure where to find the books, the page numbers are listed in the front of the Bible. The 66 books have been divided into two main sections called the Old Testament and the New Testament. All the verses in this study are from the New Testament
2. The number 3 is the chapter of the book. Each book has been divided into chapters. In the book of John, there are 21 chapters.
3. The number 16 is the verse. To help people locate things in the Bible, each chapter has been broken down into verses. There are 36 verses in John chapter 3.

There are four lessons in the book. You are encouraged to do one lesson each week. Perhaps you can meet with someone who is helping you with this study.

WHICH WAY

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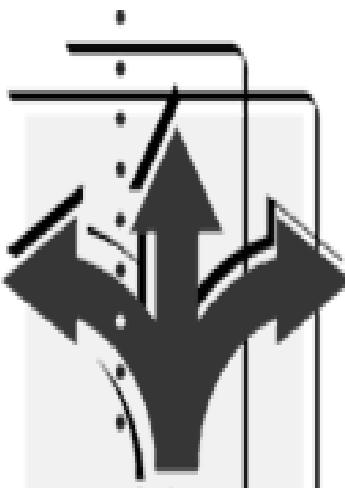
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LESSON ONE

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PATH

A number of years ago, I was living near a small creek thirty-five miles from the city of Quesnel, British Columbia. About an hour and a half downstream was a waterfall. In the spring of my first year there, I decided to hike down and investigate the falls. It was a warm spring day as I set out on my journey. After 20 minutes, I came to a fork in the path. I now had a decision to make. Should I go to the right or to the left? Taking the wrong path at this point could get me lost for quite awhile. After thinking it through, I decided to take the path, which led to the right. After a period of stumbling around in a swamp, I realized I had taken the wrong path. Thankfully, it was a mistake I could correct.

As I thought back upon that trip to the falls, I realized that life could also be compared to a journey. As we travel through life, all of us must choose which path we will take. Although there may seem to be many paths, the Bible makes it clear there are really only two ways.



Read Matthew 7:13-14.

Jesus is teaching an important truth about two gates and two roads.

How does He describe the first gate and road? _____

Where does that road lead? _____

How does He describe the second gate and road?



Where does that road lead? _____

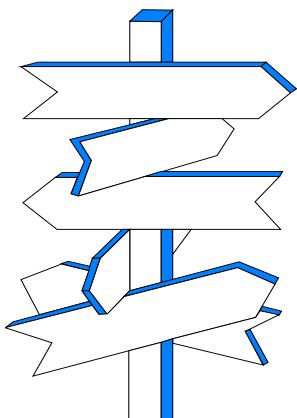
What road are most people taking? _____

The first road is Satan's way. It leads to destruction. Many people have chosen the devil's way.

The second road is God's way and it leads to life. Jesus is not talking about physical death. He is pointing out what will happen to those who choose Satan's way or God's way. Those who travel the devil's road will end up with eternal death. Those who decide to follow God's road will receive eternal life.

Read John 14:6 How does a person get to the Father? _____

Jesus said that He is ***the way*** to the Father.



This seems to contradict what many people are saying today. I have had people tell me all religions lead to heaven. They say that people may be traveling on different roads but they all lead to the same place.

What does Peter say about this in Acts 4:12?



Some would say Jesus and Peter were narrow-minded.
The truth is that there are really only two roads in
life and only one of those roads leads to eternal life.

Jesus came to die on the cross so that the way to heaven would be opened
for everyone in the world. According to John 3:16 why did God send Jesus?

In another verse Jesus gives a second reason for His coming.
Read John 10:10 and write down another reason why Jesus came.



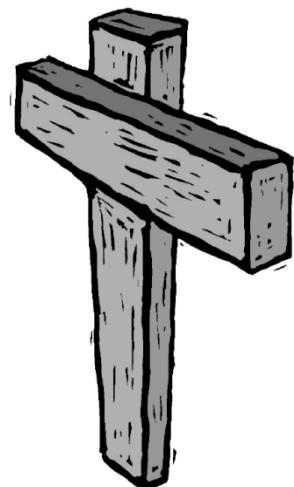
Jesus came, not only to provide eternal life, but He also
will give you a happy life. That does not mean your life
will not include difficulties but it does mean He will give
you
life purpose and meaning.

Do you remember Matthew 7:13-14?

*“Enter through the narrow gate.
For wide is the gate
and broad is the road that leads to destruction,
and many enter through it.
But small is the gate and narrow the road
that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

Maybe you've been traveling on the wrong road. It is never too late to choose God's way. He has the power to give you victory over sin. He can heal your broken family relationships. He will take away your loneliness.

While you are thinking about these two ways you need to understand something else. The next lesson is about some *bad news* and some *good news*.



LESSON TWO

BAD NEWS - GOOD NEWS

No one likes to hear bad news. Often it is discouraging to listen to the news on TV because so much of it is tragic. It is even harder to accept bad news when it affects us directly. On the other hand, everyone likes to hear good news. The Bible contains some bad news and some good news. The bad news is something about you. The good news is something about God.



Let's look at the bad news first. The Bible says you are a sinner. What does Romans 3:23 say?

Which word says how many people have sinned? _____

When the Bible says that you and I have sinned it means that we cheat, we hate, we think lustful thoughts, we lie and we do many other things the Bible says are wrong. The word “sin” actually means “to miss the mark.” Suppose you were to pick up a rock. Then I said to you, “*Throw that rock up and hit the sun.*” No matter how hard you threw it, the rock would fall short.



Romans 3:23 says, “***For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***”

That means that God has set a standard He expects all of us to meet. That standard is God himself. He expects us to be perfect as He is perfect. No matter how hard we try we cannot meet His standard. All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

The Bible goes on to say more about sin in Romans 6:23. Read that verse.

What kind of wages does sin pay? _____

The first job I had paid \$1.25 an hour. (You can tell it was a long time ago!) The first week I worked twenty hours and earned \$25.00. That amount was my wages. It was what I earned. Because you and I have sinned we have earned death. We deserve to die and be eternally separated from God.

Since there was no way you could come to God, He decided to come to you.



Good News!

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ died for you. What does Romans 5:8 say?

Did Jesus Christ wait for men and women to “get better” before He died for them? _____

This truth is illustrated on the next page in a story from the book **INSPIRATION FROM INDIAN LEGENDS, PROVERBS AND PSALMS** by R.L. Gowan, The title of the story is “He Took His Brother’s Place.”

HE TOOK HIS BROTHER'S PLACE

Nasomsee had broken a treaty. He must die. Chief Black Hawk, his father, knew this and knew it well.

Nasomsee had killed an Iowa brave. The Iowa had fired first and wounded Nasomsee, but as he fell Nasomsee had shot and killed the brave.

"Nasomsee cannot go to the Iowa village," said his brother Loud Thunder. "He is badly wounded."

"My son broke the treaty!" Black Hawk insisted.

"He cannot travel," Loud Thunder replied.

"Nasomsee is a Sauk," Black Hawk's voice was firm.

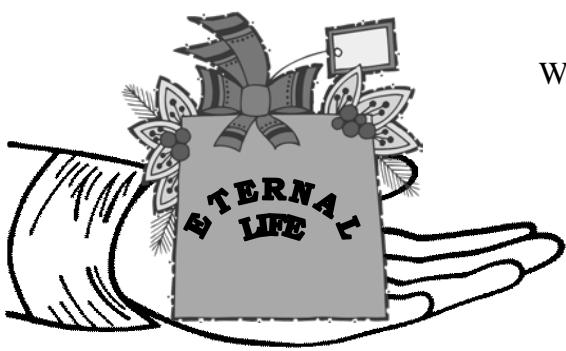
"Then I will go in his place, Father. I will die for him and for the honor of my people," Loud Thunder decided.

That settled, Black Hawk and Loud Thunder left the same morning. They rode for seven days until they came to the Iowa village. Then Loud thunder got off his horse and said good-bye to his father. Alone, he marched toward the offended tribe. He sang the Sauk death song as he went.

Iowa braves quickly surrounded him and began to dance the Death Dance, but Loud Thunder showed no fear. Their war chief sent for Black Hawk. After talking to the Sauk chief, he held council with his own braves. Then he spoke to all of his people. He told them that Loud Thunder had come to die for his brother.

At once the people began to cheer Loud Thunder. They gave him food, two horses, and set him free. There was great rejoicing among Black Hawk's party as Loud Thunder returned. They hurried back to their own lodges to share the good news with the rest of the tribe. Loud Thunder had been spared!

Loud Thunder was completely willing to die for his brother. Romans 5:8 makes it clear that Jesus died for us when we were sinners. You and I deserve death as the wages for our sins but Jesus took the penalty of our sins upon Himself. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again for the sins of all people. Now He stands at the gate of eternal life and welcomes all who will come through Him.



You can be saved by faith.

What does Ephesians 2:8-9 say about how a person is saved?

Ephesians 2:8-9 says a person is saved by _____ and through _____

It also says it is not by your works. You cannot earn salvation by doing good works. *Grace* means salvation is a free gift that a person can receive even though he does not deserve it.

What you need to do is have faith. Faith is simply trust. Every time you sit on a chair you are trusting that chair to hold you. Putting your faith in Christ means that you are trusting Him to save you from the penalty of your sins. You cannot trust in your old religion or your baptism to give you eternal life. Your trust has to be in the One who died for you. Ephesians 2:8 says it is a *gift* of God. A gift must be received.

THE BAD NEWS IS THAT ALL OF US HAVE SINNED AND
ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD.
THE WAGES OF OUR SIN IS ETERNAL DEATH.

The **good news** is that Jesus Christ has died for our sins and we can now be saved through Him. In fact, He makes it clear that He is the only way to have eternal life. All people in the world now stand at a fork in the road of life and must choose the way they will take.

Read the story of a young man in Matthew 19:16-24. What kept him from choosing God's way?

Well, you might be thinking that it is really quite easy to become a Christian. All I have to do is trust in Christ and I receive eternal life and a good life now. The next lesson wants to make one other thing clear. It is easy to become a Christian but it will cost you everything to completely follow Christ.

What are some things that may be keeping you from taking God's way?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



**THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT JESUS
DIED ON THE CROSS FOR US!**

WE CAN RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION!

LESSON THREE

IT SOUNDS TOO EASY

When I turned 16 years old I wanted to buy a car. At that time I knew of a car I could buy for \$75.00. It was a 1956 Pontiac four door sedan. It was light blue and white. Before I bought that car I had some other things I needed to learn.

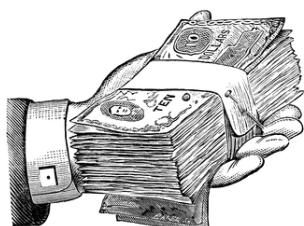
My father explained to me that there was more than just the cost of the car. I also had to pay a large amount of money for insurance. He explained that it would take gas and oil and money for repairs. Once I understood the whole cost then I could make my decision. My father wanted me to know the cost before I made my choice.



This is also true for following God's way. It sounds very easy. Who would want to say "no" to eternal life? I want you to know that there is a greater cost involved.

There are many people who have "made decisions" or "prayed to receive Christ" without really understanding the cost. Once difficulties or temptations came, they turned back to their old ways. Just saying a prayer is not enough. Choosing God's way will take a life-long commitment on your part.

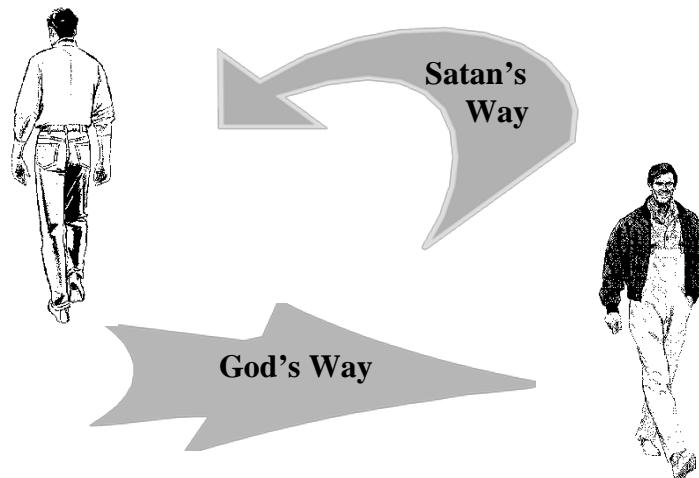
Do you remember the rich young man? He was not willing to give up his riches. He did not want to pay the cost.



What did Jesus say in Matthew 8:20-22 to the people who said they would follow Him?

It cost Jesus His life to provide salvation for us. What does He say in Matthew 10:37-39?

When you follow God's way your life will change. You can no longer be involved in the sins that were part of your former life. The word *repent* means *to change your mind*. You will now turn around and walk in a different direction. Which of these men repented?



The man on the right has repented. He has changed his mind, and now his life must change. At one time he lived in sin and traveled the road of sin but when He chose God's way, he realized he could not live in his old ways, so he turned around and changed directions.

Here is how Paul explained it in **2 Corinthians 5:17**:

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!"**

In Act 20:21 what did Paul declare to the Jews and Greeks?

If you decide to follow Christ you must realize that you must turn from your sins and live in obedience to God. Many people refuse God's way because they do not want to give up their way of living – their lives of sin.

What showed that the Thessalonians had truly repented of their sins? (1 Thessalonians 1:9)

In Act 19:18-20 many people in Ephesus turned to Christ. What did they do that showed they had repented?



Before you decide which of the roads you will choose, I want you to know what it will cost you to follow Jesus.

- ⇒ You will now be different. Your friends may make fun of you for not joining them in their sinful ways.
- ⇒ Your family members may give you a hard time. They may accuse you of feeling you are better than they are. They may bring up your past sins.
- ⇒ You will no longer be satisfied or happy to live in sin.
- ⇒ As you learn what Christ wants you to do, you will learn to make good decisions in your life. He wants to be the Lord of every area of your life. He expects you to obey His Word, the Bible.



How much did my first car cost? It cost much more than just \$75.00. How much will it cost you to follow God's way? It will cost much more than a simple short prayer. The only question left is,

"WHICH WAY WILL YOU CHOOSE?"

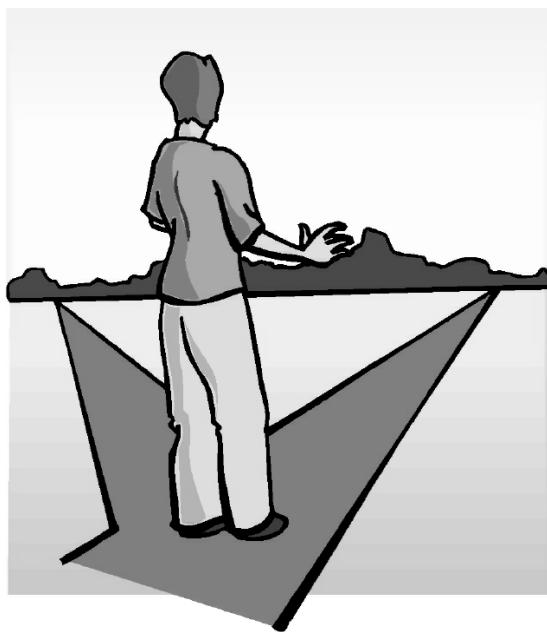
The choice is up to you.

LESSON FOUR

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Once I understood all the costs of owning my first car I had to make a choice. Was I willing to **pay the price to have the privilege** of owning a car? This is also true for you. Do you want eternal life? Do you want a happy and victorious life now? **Are you willing to pay the price?**

Imagine yourself in this picture. You are the one who stands at the fork in the path. When I realized I had taken the wrong path to the falls that day, I quickly decided I wanted to get on the right path. It was no fun being lost. You also need to make a choice.



Satan's way leads to eternal death, but God's way leads to eternal life. Sin has ruined your life. Jesus died and rose to life, to pay the penalty for your sin. If you receive Him you won't have to pay for your sins.

Read John 1:10-12 very carefully. Verse 12 says:

*“Yet to all who received Him,
to those who believed in His name,
He gave the right to become children of God.”*

Receiving is really believing. The word “believe” is the same as “faith.” Faith is trusting in Jesus to save you.

Romans 10:9-10 puts it this way,

*That if you confess with your mouth ‘Jesus is Lord,’
and believe in your heart
that God raised Him from the dead,
you will be saved.
For it is with the heart
that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth
that you confess and are saved.”*

Confession is made with your **mouth**.

Belief takes place in your **heart**.

The result is that you **will be saved**.

Look at John 3:16 one more time,

*“For God so loved the world
that He gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.”*



Christ’s
Love

1. Whom does God love? _____
 2. What did God do to show His love? _____
 3. What does God promise? _____
 4. What must a person do to receive eternal life? _____
-

Would you like to pray right now and tell God you are trusting His Son as your Saviour?

Yes No

Do you realize what it will cost you?

Yes No



**Remember that prayer does not save you.
Prayer is only the way you tell God
you are trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour.**

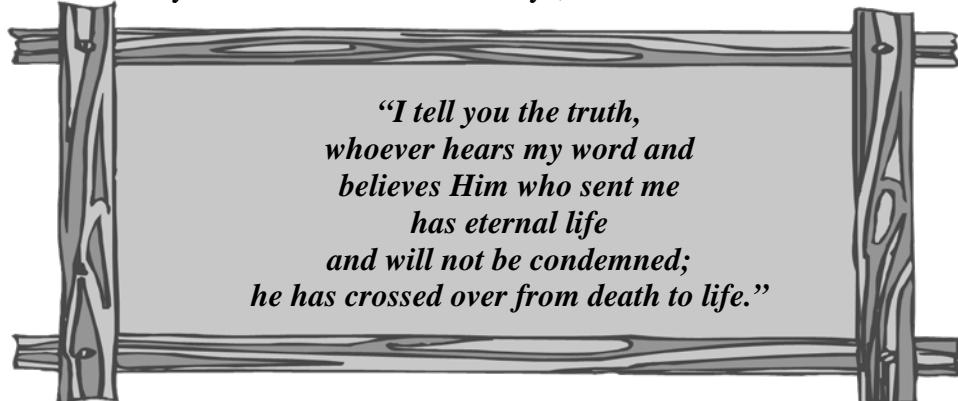
Pray this prayer if you want to receive Christ as your Saviour.

“Dear God, I come to you now. I admit that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sin and rose from the dead. Right now, I am trusting Jesus Christ alone as my Saviour. Thank you for the forgiveness and eternal life I now have. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Write out in your own words, what you have just done.

Tell someone this week about this important decision in your life.

Satan will try to make you doubt your salvation. He will try to discourage you. The Bible says you can be assured of your salvation. John 5:24 says,



***“I tell you the truth,
whoever hears my word and
believes Him who sent me
has eternal life
and will not be condemned;
he has crossed over from death to life.”***

Answer these questions:

1. “**Whoever hears my word**” Did you do that? _____

2. “**and believes Him who sent me**” Did you believe what God said and trust Christ as your Saviour? _____

3. “**has eternal life**” Does that mean now or later? _____

4. **and will not be condemned**” Does it say “will not” or “might not”

5. “**he has crossed over from death to life.**” What does this say about death?

In other words, you now have eternal life on the basis of **fact** and **not feelings**.

You have decided to walk in God’s path. You are part of His family.

The best way to guarantee growth in your Christian life is to do the following things.

1. You get to know a person by talking with him. Talk to Jesus often in prayer. You can talk to Him any time of the day. Pray regularly.
2. You will want to get to know Jesus better by reading God’s letter to you, the Bible. Get a Bible you can understand. Read the Bible daily. Obey what God’s Word says.
3. You will need to attend a good church where you will be taught God’s Word. Is there a native church meeting in your area? Attend every week.
4. Tell others about your new life in Christ. They need to follow God’s way also.

If you have decided to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, please fill out the **SPIRITUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE** on the last page of this book. Pull this sheet out of your book and place it in a spot where it can be a reminder of this life-changing decision. Receiving Christ will not eliminate your problems but it does give you a friend who can help you through the hard times.

If you would also fill out the form on the next page and send it to us here at the Native Bible Centre, we will pray for you.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

What is the date you received Christ as your Saviour?

Do you want to start the PASS IT ON course? _____



PASS IT ON is a study that has been prepared for new Christians.

It has 17 lessons that will help you grow in your Christian life.

You can order it from the Native Bible Centre and we
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SPIRITUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE

(NAME)

WAS BORN INTO GOD'S FAMILY ON _____
(DATE)

THIS GREAT EVENT TOOK PLACE IN _____
(PLACE)

WITNESS _____

John 5:24 – “I tell you the truth: whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; He has crossed over from death to life.”

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