

Landmark 2, Genesis 3:4

Based on the proverb:

Prov 22:28

28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

I am progressing through Scripture and identifying those verses that, to me at least, act as landmarks or mileposts in human history. Many of them are in the book of Genesis. Thus, it is likely that as the Lord gives me opportunity, we will be in that book for a while. You might find it fun to see how your choices compare with my choices.

REVIEW

Landmark 1

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Creation. It was all very good and He rested. Adam and Eve were made upright.

Eccl 7:29

29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

What verse would you pick as the next landmark text in Scripture?

Clearly the fall is the next important event in human history. Genesis 3:6 is when Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit. But, my choice comes a couple of verses earlier. For the second landmark, I pick

Genesis 3:4 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”

I have picked this verse because it is the first time humanity is confronted with a lie and how humanity responded when confronted with discerning true from false, right from wrong, good from evil. This landmark represents a divergence in human history. This marker points down a new road in history: the broad road. Until “thou shalt NOT surely die” was spoken, there

was no other road, no broad road. This is the origin of the broad road, which has only gotten broader and branched with the passage of time. It leads to death. But, although the narrow way has many turns and hills and valleys, it is exactly wide enough for them that find it. It leads to life.

Matt 7:13-14

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Until the words “Thou shalt not surely die” were uttered, human history knew nothing but truth, innocence, and very goodness. Adam and Eve had only a single simple condition to meet for them to continue in this blessed state. Do not eat of the forbidden fruit. And, it is at this point that falsehood, entered. Here it began, the war of truth against lies, which has continued and will continue until Christ returns.

But before we examine the war of truth versus lies, and the fall of humanity and creation, let’s look at Adam and Eve’s blessed condition while truth reigned supreme:

Gen 2:15-18

15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

18 And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Gen 2:21-25

21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

25 And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Adam and Eve were sinless. Yet, they had the ability to sin or not to sin.

They had true free will. Contrary to much opinion, after the fall, we ceased to have free will because our will is tied to a fallen nature. Man is no longer born upright, but fallen. Although we don't have the time to explore this tonight, let us suffice it to say that man did not lose his ability to make choices, but he did lose the ability to choose rightly, unless the Holy Spirit revived his dead spirit. A great book that addresses this issue is Martin Luther's *Bondage of the Will*.

Some theologians also believe that Adam and Eve were created with the ten commandments, what they would call the perpetual moral law, written in their hearts. But, they have reached this conclusion by deduction rather than what the Bible says about Adam and Eve. If you think about it, the ten commandments would not make much sense to Adam and Eve, especially before they fell.

They lived under a simple covenant: Don't eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It was the breaking of this covenant that we refer to as the Fall.

They only knew good, but God knew good AND evil. Not that God was evil, or that He willed evil, or that He worked evil, but that He had made creation with the capacity for evil. To know and understand evil does not make one evil. Yet, it was God's predetermined, foreordained plan that evil enter. The entry of evil was not a surprise to Him. God was not caught off guard. God did not have to make adjustments as the Openness Theologians contend. The entry of evil, and its certain defeat, was set by God from the foundation of the world.

But, why would God do such a thing? It was a means by which God has brought glory to Himself.

1. To clearly distinguish Himself from his creation.

2. To deliver His elect from the dominion of Satan and evil
3. To glorify his Son
4. To redeem His physical creation

Before we look at the Scriptures that describe the Fall, let me say this:

There is a temptation (pun intended) to get focused on the details of the Fall and miss the point. The Fall is not just Adam and Eve hanging with a bad crowd or getting evicted or foreclosed on and having to go live in shanty town. The fall opened the gates of Hell.

Gen 3:1-7

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Adam and Eve were not suspicious, skeptical, or untrusting. No, they were as innocent as it gets. Having never been exposed to a lie, dishonesty, or manipulation, they were easy prey for the wiles of the devil.

God had spoken directly to Adam regarding the tree and the consequences of eating its fruit. Adam was the federal head of humanity, our representative. Even though Eve was “caught in the transgression,” the fall is held to Adam’s account.

1 Cor 15:22

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Adam was not only the first man. He was also the first husband. But, Scripture tells us that there are actually two Adams:

1 Cor 15:45-49

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

The “earthy” Adam is Adam, the husband of Eve, mother of all humanity. Her husband failed to protect her from temptation. He failed in his leadership responsibilities.

Eph 5:23-25

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

There is a great lesson here for us: When the roles of men and women are reversed, bad things happen. Eve took the lead and Adam followed. The subtlety of Satan is to attack at the weak point. Rather than going to Adam, he went to Eve, her being the weaker vessel, and he beguiled her. Satan knew that the best way to get at Adam was through his wife. We can only imagine how close and intimate they were in the absence of pride and selfishness. I am not sure that we can imagine a relationship such as they must have had. They were one flesh without a selfish thought in their heads. Adam and Eve were truly one flesh, “bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh.” They had a perfect love and were perfectly happy. Adam’s infatuation with

Eve may have blinded him to his responsibilities. Have any of you guys ever been so stuck on a girl that you did something stupid? As much as we adore our wives and husbands, those of us in Christ must be more infatuated with God than with our spouses.

Even great Moses was not great husband.

Exod 4:24-26

24 And it came to pass by the way in the inn, that the LORD met him, and sought to kill him.

25 Then Zipporah took a sharp stone, and cut off the foreskin of her son, and cast it at his feet, and said, Surely a bloody husband art thou to me.

26 So he let him go: then she said, A bloody husband thou art, because of the circumcision.

God was angry with Moses because he had not had his teenaged sons circumcised on the 8th day of their life according to Jewish law. Moses had become lax in his faith because he was not living among orthodox Jews in Midian. But when the Lord “sought to kill” Moses, it was Zipporah who had to get the job done, with a sharp rock no less. Just as an aside, Moses is often considered a type of Christ. Isn’t it interesting that although she doesn’t realize it, God has her describing Moses as a “bloody” husband because of the circumcision. Whereas, Christ is our bloody husband because of the atonement. The Scriptures cannot be broken.

The last Adam who comes from heaven is also the last Husband, Jesus Christ, and His bride is all of the redeemed of all ages. The church has a heavenly Husband who will never leave us or forsake us. Jesus Christ is the perfect husband. And, he will have a perfected bride. Now, men, do not be offended that you are a bride. Jesus made it real clear that there will not be marriage as we know it in heaven. Marriage on earth is a picture of our future marriage to Christ.

Matt 22:25-30

25 Now there were with us seven brethren: and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and, having no issue, left his wife unto his brother:

26 Likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh.

27 And last of all the woman died also.

28 *Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her.*

29 *Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.*

30 *For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.*

Not to say that we become angels.

Now, on to the affects of the fall:

2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Neither Adam nor Eve physically dropped dead that day. But, God is not like man that he can lie, so we know that they died in some way that day. Because Adam and Eve, being body and spirit, did not die physically that day, we can only conclude that they died spiritually. Adam having been given dominion, being our representative, disobeyed God and plunged humanity into spiritual death. Now, we are cursed by original sin and are born spiritually dead.

Rom 5:17-19

17 *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*

18 *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

Rom 6:23

3 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

“Dead Man Walking” is a movie that I have not seen other than the commercial for it. But from that, I figured out that the title was a reference to death row prisoners as they are being walked to the executioner to be gassed, electrocuted, hanged or given a lethal injection. I could not help but think

about fallen humanity. All of unregenerate humanity, those who are not in Christ, are dead men, dead women, and dead young people walking down the corridor of life to an eternal execution where the choking never ends, surge of the current never stops, the neck doesn't snap clean, and the injection is always just beginning to drip. Suspended in the fear and agony of death eternally. Pure God-sized infinite torment as the just sentence. No reprieve, no stay of execution, God will by no means clear the guilty. God's justice must be satisfied.

But, where there is an eternal punishment there is also hope: The gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus says that He will take the place of any sinner in that line and bear the wrath of God on their behalf if they will but repent from their sin, confess that Jesus is his Lord and Savior, and follow Him. All that is needed is for us to tell them as they walk down the corridor, then whosoever will may come. Are you walking toward your execution? Trust Christ as your Surety. Cease to place your faith in things that will burn up. Cease placing your faith in yourself, in religious activities, in vain philosophies, in chemical dependence, in other people. Place your faith in Jesus Christ, the only Person who can deliver you from the line of dead men walking, marching toward eternal torment.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Their eyes were opened not just to see their nakedness, but to their sinfulness. Their guilt must have been crushing. Their eyes were opened to know evil. Happiness was no more. Paradise was lost. Until the fall they had only seen good, received good, and been good. Goodness does not fear the light. Goodness does fear being exposed. But, now they were so gripped with fear that they tried to hide themselves. They ran like skittering roaches when the lights come on. They went from being not ashamed to being terribly ashamed. They tried to cover themselves with fig leaves. This is where we learned to try to cover our mistakes. The world says never admit a mistake unless you have to. Of course, a man cannot cover up a sin against a holy, all knowing God. Neither can he hide it from God. Only, God can cover a sin against Him.

Notice too that God did not come to them in a rage or in a fit of surprise, even though the worst possible thing had just happened. This is a good example for us as parents when we are exasperated with our children.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

Verse 14 deserves careful attention. We note that the serpent is cursed above the other creatures. That is to say more than other creatures, which is to say that the scope of the curse extended to all creatures, but that the serpent was just cursed more. We can also see that the curse involved a physical change for the serpent after the curse. He crawls on his belly.

It is also interesting that when God confronts the offenders He does it in the reverse of the order in which the offenses occurred. In the offense, the order was the serpent, Eve, then Adam. But, God confronts Adam first. This is because God views Adam as representative of humanity and points again to his headship. The sinner Adam immediately blames Eve (and God) for his disobedience. While in this congregation it is not really necessary to say it, the fact that God asks questions such as Where are you? should not be understood to mean that God didn't know where Adam was. Eve then blames the serpent. Because the serpent cannot pass the buck, he says nothing.

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Genesis 3:15 is often called the proto-gospel (the covenant of grace in an immature form) because it is believed that “thy seed” refers to the seed of Satan, or all of lost humanity, and “her seed” refers to Christ. It shall bruise (some translations say crush) his head refers to Jesus’s ultimate victory over Satan and Satan bruising Christ on the cross. The picture is Christ grinding the head of the serpent beneath his heel. All things being put beneath His feet. Satan receives a head wound which signifies a mortal wound. But, Christ’s heel is bruised which is not a mortal wound. A biblical justification used for this interpretation is Gal. 3:16.

Gal 3:16

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

The case is made that the “the seed” of Gal 3:16 is the same as “her seed” in Gen 3:15. I only mention this because, if I had not, the theologians among you would have likely bruised my head after the service! My mother-in-law and my wife have a natural hatred for snakes. As a general rule, most people don’t like snakes. So, a simple interpretation of Gen 3:15 could be people and snakes will never get along. But, this would seem terribly inadequate for the magnitude of transgression. Thus, we would reject such an oversimplification.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Of course we know that this refers to pain during child bearing, but when we consider the context: God addressing Eve the individual who knows what has been lost who will now bring her children into a fallen world. She desired to be wise, but became a fool. She knows that she and Adam could have brought their children into a blessed garden with every provision, but she sold their birthright for a piece of fruit that was infinitely bitter. Even further, the woman was made subject to the man and she was told that he would rule over her. Before the fall, it was unnecessary that Adam rule over Eve. She had no need of for a ruler because she was not unruly. But, because of being deceived, God says that Adam shall rule over her. This is to make it clear to her that she is not to usurp his authority.

1 Tim 2:12-15

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 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.

Adam did not listen to God, but listened to his wife. The ground was cursed which was the same as saying the earth was cursed. For Adam, a life sentence at hard labor. Thorns and thistles. Sweat and sorrow. Misery, then death.

Rom 8:20-22

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And we know that the death here referred to is both a spiritual death and a physical death.

Gen 3:20

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The man is become as one of US. This is the second occasion upon which God refers to Himself using the plural form. Earlier God had said let US make man in OUR image. These references in the plural are the very bottom ground upon which is built the doctrine of the Trinity. God is of one essence, but three persons Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in perfect unity. The three persons, from a human perspective, having different roles, are incapable of differing attributes, knowledge, purposes, opinions, objectives, and of particular interest to us, differing on which human beings to be saved. It is not possible for one person of the Godhead to have one more or one less human being in mind than another person of the Godhead. For example, if the Father has elected a certain number to be saved, the Son can only redeem them, he cannot atone for more or for less. To do otherwise would product a disagreement in the Godhead. But, we have not the time to say more on that deep subject.

The fig leaf coverings made by Adam and Eve, representative of human works, were not adequate to cover Adam and Eve. God covered them with coats made from animal skins. Although the text does not say it, we assume that God killed the animals and shed the animals' blood in the process. (The shedding of blood is not in the text.) This act is considered by many theologians as representing God covering their sin. From this, and Adam and Eve's later references to the Lord, and Cain and Able making sacrifices, they conclude that Adam and Eve were saved. However, the Scriptures are clear that the blood of animals cannot atone for sin.

Heb 10:4

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Salvation is by faith. Please take your Bibles and turn to Hebrews 11.

Heb 11:1-4

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Here, in the precious “By Faith” chapter, the list of important elders who obtained a good report begins with whom? Abel, not Adam. The Scriptures nowhere indicate that Adam or Eve asked for forgiveness or demonstrated a repentant heart. Using the Lord’s name and making sacrifices (that is, practicing some form of religion) is not proof that Adam and Eve repented or that they were restored to spiritual life. We will simply have to wait and see.

Returning now to the Landmark: **Thou shalt not surely die.**

More than anything else, what we have learned from the story of the fall is this:

Terrible things happen when we don’t listen to God and do what God says. Adam and Eve did not have the Bible like we do, but they had direct instruction from God. Then, they were presented with an alternative word that appeared more inviting, but directly contradicted what God had said. Wanting to exalt themselves, they followed the lie, rather than the truth. Surely, there is nothing more important in our time, or in any time for that matter, than that we be able to discern good from evil. Satan, the father of lies, the prince of this world, has continued on to this day with his campaign of disinformation and misinformation.

For the people of God, there is only one truth. It is the Word of God preserved in the Holy Bible. We have the completed canon of Scripture. We have what God said in times past and we have what He has spoken through

his Son Jesus and the inspired writers after him. What we have in the Bible is the completed revelation of God to humanity.

Prov 22:20-21

20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

Lord help us speak truth to them that you send to us!

The Word of God is Trustworthy and True

Isa 25:1

1 O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Ps 19:7-10

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Because Satan knows that the Scriptures are the only source of infallible truth about the nature of God, the creation of the universe, the origin of mankind, the condition of mankind, the only hope for mankind, the only source of saving knowledge, in the revelation of Jesus Christ, the way to live before a holy God and the way to eternal life, Satan has in every way possible attacked the Word and those who believe it.

Satan's greatest victory came in the garden of Eden because the fall deadened the human spirit and blinded the mind to the truth.

1 Cor 2:12-16

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

II Th (2:7-11

7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

The broad road is filled with atheists and humanists who have so well suppressed the truth within themselves that they will only admit that they are biological machines. They look for a better world through human ingenuity and science. They don't need to be saved from anything, except religion. My mother was like that. She always said she would just be "worm food" when she died. Well, she was right; she just didn't believe that she would end up where the worm dieth not.

The broad road is filled with spiritual people. Some have the spirit of Satan and intently worship him and draw on his power. Some are unwittingly possessed by his demons and have unusual spiritual powers. A prime example of such a case is Edgar Cayce, the Sleeping Prophet of the early 20th century. Edgar Cayce had the power of divination and was a true spiritual medium. Most of the spiritual people practice some form of religion.

They are Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Muslims, Wiccans, New Agers all seeking to become one with the force. (By the way, George Lucas made Star Wars specifically to introduce Eastern religious thinking into Western Judeo-Christian culture.) Their meditations, rites and rituals only open them to the evil waiting to indwell them. Thankfully, as Christians, we are protected by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The World Council of Religions would have all religions, including Christianity, merge into one world religion that would have not absolutes. To them, the great heresy, if they could bear to say the word, is any form of religious exclusivism. To them, there are an innumerable number of narrow ways all leading to spiritual fulfillment, that is really to say, personal or SELF fulfillment.

The broad road is filled with deceived persons who think that they are Christians, but in reality are not. Some believe that Jesus is just one of many ways to get to heaven or that Jesus was a great prophet but not God. These are what I call the “Christian syncretists.” They blend the Bible with worldly philosophies. They use the Bible or parts of it and add their prophet’s words to it. One way or another, the Bible for them is either not enough or it’s too much.

But, the narrow way is by faith in Jesus Christ:

John 14:6

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Many think they are saved because they prayed a save-me prayer. Many think they are saved because they were baptized. Many think they are saved because they have broken bad habits. Many think they are saved because they do good things, many think they are saved because they come to church regularly. Many think that they are saved because the church has told them they are saved because the church has given them absolution. But, the truth is, if these folks have not recognized their sinfulness and embraced Jesus as Savior AND LORD and are trusting in Him ALONE, they are not really Christians.

Sadly, most of the Christian seminaries and the religious departments of academia, deny that the Word of God is true. Most of the commentary on the Bible that we receive through the TV comes from apostate commentators. There is next to nothing on TV on any network that is faithful to the Bible.

The Word of God is Sufficient

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

So, let us not be discouraged, let not our hearts be troubled. The gates of hell will not prevail against the church. All that the Father gives Christ will come to him and be saved. We have that promise. We are also commanded to preach the gospel to all peoples and nations, there are dead men walking. The Gospel says to them Come forth. Them that have ears let them hear.

We make choices moment by moment, some of them seem trivial (two pieces of cake or one), some of them are weighty (go to the mission field or keep a six figure salary). We can choose to follow the world or we can choose to follow God. We can walk in the flesh or walk in the Spirit. Should I watch this? Should I wear this? Should I read this? Should I look at these pictures? Should I talk like that? Should I have made fun of that person? Should I fill the void in my life with alcohol, sex or drugs? If we believe in God, we must trust that His way leads to life and the world's way leads to death. It is much more black and white than we want to admit. The fact that we, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, continue to struggle with God's way versus world's way choices, and we all do, should be enough to convince us that the fall continues to affect our minds. It was a terrible event with eternal consequences brought about by a wrong choice based on believing a lie rather than the Truth.

When Jesus was confronted by Satan with various temptations, the Lord responded with "IT IS WRITTEN..." The Word of God is our plumb line, The Word of God is our filter. No Word, no wisdom, no discernment.

Let me close by reading:

Deut 30:10-31:1

10 If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

*14 **But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.***

15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

And, all God's people said.....