

On The Road Toward Heaven

Matt.7:13 – 14

- I. OBSTACLES
 - Power of satan,
 - False Teachers,
 - Separation of Sin,
 - Excuses,
 - Hypocrisy

- II. HELP
 - Gospel Preaching
 - Personal Growth
 - Love Among Brethren
 - Joy of Christianity

- III. GO FORWARD

Good morning!

Thankful to be here with you, and so **thankful** for the presence for each and everyone.

In [Matthew Chapter 7, verses 13 and 14](#), Jesus taught that ALL human beings in the world are heading down only **ONE** of two roads;

- there are those that are going down that Wide gate & **BROAD way** that leads to **DESTRUCTION**.
- and those that are going down that Strait gate & **NARROW way** that leads to **LIFE**

Which road am I on?

Which road are you on?

Which road are WE on?

What obstacles are there that **PREVENT** you and Me, from walking down that Road **TOWARD** Heaven?

Today We'd like to discuss some **OBSTACLES** that are harmful and detract a person from walking down that Road **TOWARD** Heaven

And then We'd like to look at some things that **HELP** make it possible, for us to **REACH** Heaven.

But **FIRST**, consider these passages:

Jesus said

- **"IN** my Father's house, are **MANY mansions**:
IF it were **NOT** so, I would have **TOLD** you.
I **GO** to prepare a place **FOR** you.
And if I **GO** and prepare a place **FOR** you,
I will **COME** again, and **RECEIVE** you, unto myself;
that where I am, **THERE** ye may **BE** also." ([Jn.14:2-3](#))

As Jesus was taken **UP** and a cloud **RECEIVED** him, **OUT** of sight ([Acts 1:9](#))

Two angels said

- "Ye men of Galilee, **WHY** stand ye **GAZING** up, into heaven?
this **SAME** Jesus, which is taken up **FROM** you, into heaven,
shall so **COME**, in like manner
AS ye have **SEEN** Him, **GO** into heaven." ([Acts 1:11](#))
- "Behold, He **COMETH** with clouds;
and every **EYE** shall **SEE** Him,
and they **ALSO**, which **PIERCED** Him:
and **ALL kindreds** of the earth, shall **WAIL**,
BECAUSE of Him. **EVEN** so, Amen." ([Rev.1:7](#))

and Jesus said that when He **DID** come in the clouds,

- **"ALL** that are in the graves shall **HEAR** his voice,
And shall **COME** forth;
they that have done **GOOD**, unto the resurrection of **LIFE**;
and they that have done **EVIL**, unto the resurrection of **DAMNATION**." ([Jn.5:28-29](#))

Paul said that

- "there shall be a **RESURRECTION** of the dead, **BOTH** of the just and unjust." ([Acts 24:15](#))

In [Hebrews 11:10](#) we read that they,

- “**LOOKED** for a city, which **HATH** foundations, whose builder and maker **IS** God.”

Paul said that he,

- “desired to **DEPART**, and to be **WITH** Christ; which is **FAR** better:” ([Phil.1:23](#))

For our conversation (or citizenship) is **IN** heaven;

- “from whence also, we **LOOK** for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:” ([Phil.3:20](#))

An apostle said,

- “For we **KNOW**, that **IF** our earthly house of this tabernacle were **DISSOLVED**, we have a **BUILDING** of God, an **HOUSE**, **NOT** made with hands, **ETERNAL** in the heavens.” ([2Cor.5:1](#))

Abraham

- “desired a **BETTER** country, that is, an **HEAVENLY**:” ([Heb.11:16](#))

Peter beseeched Christians

- “as strangers and pilgrims, **ABSTAIN** from fleshly lusts, which war **AGAINST** the soul;” ([1Pet.2:11](#))

and

- “**PRESS** toward the mark, **FOR** the prize, **OF** the high calling of God, **IN** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:14](#))

The Bible says

- “**NOW** are we the, **SONS** of God (that is, the children of God) we **KNOW** that, **WHEN** He shall appear, we shall **BE**, **LIKE** Him; for we shall **SEE** Him, **AS** He **IS**.” ([1Jn.3:2](#))

Truly, Job said it,

- “There’s a place where the wicked **CEASE**, from troubling; and the **WEARY**, be at **REST**.” ([Job 3:17](#))

And the psalmist said,

- “Thou shalt **GUIDE** me, **WITH** Thy counsel, and afterward, **RECEIVE** me to glory.” ([Psalm 73:24](#))

We should truly **LOOK** forward, to the **BEAUTIFUL** home of the soul.

The apostle Paul wrote,

- “At my **FIRST** answer, **NO** man stood **WITH** me, but **ALL** men **FORSOOK** me:
...Notwithstanding, the Lord stood **WITH** me, and **STRENGTHENED** me;
...And the Lord shall **DELIVER** me, from **EVERY** evil work, and will **PRESERVE** me, unto His **HEAVENLY** kingdom: to whom be **GLORY** for ever and ever. **AMEN**.” ([2Tim.4:16-18](#))

Christians **THEN** and **NOW** are told,

- “**GIVE** diligence, to **MAKE** your calling and election **SURE**: for **IF**, ye **DO** these things, ye shall **NEVER** fall: For so an **ENTRANCE**, shall be ministered, unto you **ABUNDANTLY** into the **EVERLASTING** kingdom, **OF** our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” ([2Pet.1:10-11](#))

HEAVEN is a prepared **PLACE**, for a prepared **PEOPLE**.

- Christ is our **FORERUNNER** to Heaven ([Heb.6:20](#))
- He is now in Heaven **FOR** us ([Heb.9:24](#))
- This gives us hope, as an **ANCHOR** of the soul, **BOTH** sure and steadfast ([Heb.6:19](#))

Today as we discuss “On the Road Toward Heaven”, we must be **HONEST** and discuss

I. **OBSTACLES,**

barriers, hindrances, “**ON** the Road **TOWARD** Heaven”,
and then things that **PROPEL** us to the beautiful home of the soul, the Golden Street of Glory.

But first, “On the Road **TOWARD** Heaven”, there are some **OBSTACLES**, for instance,

A. **The POWER of Satan.**

- “Lest satan should **GET** an advantage of us: for we are not **IGNORANT** of his devices.” Paul wrote in [2Cor.2:11](#).

We are **NOT** to **GIVE** an inch to the devil
NEVER allow him to **OPERATE** in our territory,

- “Don’t give PLACE to the devil” ([Eph.4:27](#))

And though he **IS** our enemy, our

- “adversary the **DEVIL**, as a **ROARING** lion, **WALKETH** about, **SEEKING** whom he may devour:” ([1Pet.5:8](#))

In [2Cor.11:3](#), we read of the **SUBTLE** nature of the devil

- “And no marvel; for satan himself is **TRANSFORMED** into an angel of light.” ([2Cor.11:14](#))

In [Eph.6:11](#), we read of the **WILES** of the devil.

So satan is a, very clever, **CRAFTY** person.

- and he “**DESIRE(S)** to **HAVE**” us ([Luke 22:31](#)).

satan is powerful, but

- “**GREATER** is **HE** that is **IN** you, than he that is **IN** the world.” ([1Jn.4:4](#))

and

- “If God be **FOR** us, **WHO** can be **AGAINST** us?” ([Rom.8:31](#))

So an **OBSTACLE** “On the Road Toward Heaven” is the **POWER** of satan, and

B. FALSE TEACHERS

Jesus said,

- “**BEWARE** of false prophets, which **COME** to you in **SHEEP’S** clothing, but **INWARDLY** they are **RAVENING** wolves. Ye shall **KNOW** them, by their **FRUITS**.” ([Matt.7:15-16](#))

An inspired writer said,

- “there were **FALSE** prophets **ALSO** among the people, **EVEN** as there shall be, **FALSE** teachers **AMONG** you, who privily shall bring in, **DAMNABLE** heresies, even **DENYING** the Lord that **BOUGHT** them, and **BRING** upon themselves, **SWIFT** destruction.” ([2Pet.2:1](#))

The Bible says

- “Beloved, believe **NOT** every spirit, but **TRY** the spirits, whether they are **OF** God: because **MANY** false prophets are gone out **INTO** the world.” ([1Jn.4:1](#))
- “and so we are to **TRY** or **PROVE** all things; **HOLD** fast, that which is **GOOD**.” ([1Thess.5:21](#))

The false teachers are everywhere, **TEACHING** error, **DISGUIISING** truth (knowingly or unknowingly), **SERVING** satan’s every whim.

and though they are powerful and **GREAT** in satan’s service,

- “the God of peace shall **BRUISE** (or crush) satan, under your feet **SHORTLY**.” ([Rom.16:20](#))
- “Now **THANKS** be unto God, which **ALWAYS** causeth us, to triumph **IN** Christ, and maketh **MANIFEST** the savour, of **HIS** knowledge, by **US**, in **EVERY** place.” ([2Cor.2:14](#))

“On The Road Toward Heaven”, there are **OBSTACLES**, but in [Revelation 2:2](#) we read of **FALSE** apostles in the 1st century. The church of our Lord at Ephesus **TRIED** them and **PROVED** them **FALSE**, and the Lord **COMMENDED** the brethren at Ephesus, for **KNOWING** the truth and **OPPOSING** error

Notice the passage:

- “I **KNOW** thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and **HOW** thou canst not **BEAR** them which are **EVIL**: and thou hast **TRIED** them, which **SAY** they are apostles, and are **NOT**, and hast **FOUND** them **LIARS**.” ([Rev.2:2](#))

When we’re **STRONG** in the land, but **NOT** for truth,

we have a lot to weep about, just as that ancient prophet did in [Jeremiah 9:3](#),

- “they **BEND** their tongues, like their **BOW** for lies: ...they are **NOT** valiant for the **TRUTH**, upon the earth; for they **PROCEED** from evil to evil, and they know **NOT Me**, saith the **LORD**.”

Obstacles “On The Road Toward Heaven”: the power of Satan, false teachers, and the

C. Separation of SIN

[Isaiah 59:1-2](#) should be forever **ETCHED** in our minds.

- “**BEHOLD**, the **LORD's hand** is **NOT shortened**, that it can**NOT save**; **NEITHER** His **EAR heavy**, that it can**NOT hear**:
But your **INIQUITIES** have **SEPARATED**, between you and your God,
and your **SINS**, have hid his face **FROM** you, that he will **NOT hear**.” ([Isa.59:1-2](#))
- “the **WICKED** are like the troubled sea, when it can**NOT** rest,
whose **WATERS** cast **UP mire** and **dirt**.
There is **NO peace**, saith my God, **TO** the wicked.” ([Isa.57:20-21](#))

The separation that sin brings, caused Paul to say to those in Ephesus,

- “And **YOU**, hath he **QUICKENED**, who **WERE dead** in trespasses and sins;
Wherein in time past ye **WALKED**
 - according to the **COURSE** of this world,
 - according to the **PRINCE** of the power of the air,
the spirit that **NOW** worketh, in the children of disobedience:
Among whom **ALSO**, we **ALL** had our conversation in times past, in the **LUSTS** of our flesh,
fulfilling the **DESIRES** of the flesh and of the mind;
and were by **NATURE**, the children of **WRATH**, even **AS** others.” ([Eph.2:1-3](#))

And since,

- “the **WHOLE world**, **LIETH** in wickedness.” ([1Jn.5:19](#)) AND
- “sin is a **REPROACH**, to **ANY people**” ([Prov.14:34](#)).

We must **NEVER** allow the devil to take advantage over us, as he uses our lives,
TUMBLING along the road toward Heaven and winding up in **TORMENT**.

There are many **OBSTACLES** to Heaven, but **ONWARD** toward that goal, we **MUST** press.
We must **ALLOW** the Lord Jesus Christ, to give us **VICTORY** over sin.

- “the **WAGES** of sin, is **DEATH**;
but the **GIFT** of God, is **ETERNAL life**, **THROUGH** Jesus Christ our Lord.” ([Rom.6:23](#))

And though

- “**ALL** have sinned, and come **SHORT** of the glory of God;” We’re
“**JUSTIFIED** freely, **BY** His grace, **THROUGH** the redemption, that is **IN** Christ Jesus:” ([Rom.3:23-24](#))

The Bible tells us that though sin is **POWERFUL**,

and it has the ability to **SEPARATE** us, from our Heavenly Father, AND from Heaven

- we **CAN** have our “sins **COVERED**,” ([Psalms 32:1](#))
- “with the **PRECIOUS** blood of Christ, **AS** of a lamb, with**OUT** blemish and with**OUT** spot:” ([1Pet.1:19](#))
- “In whom we have, redemption **THROUGH** His blood, the **FORGIVENESS** of sins,…” ([Eph.1:7](#)).
- “Unto him that **LOVED** us, and **WASHED** us, from **OUR** sins, in His **OWN** blood,” ([Rev.1:5](#)).

OBSTACLES on the road **TOWARD** Heaven,

Yes, we can **OVERCOME** them, by the **POWER** of the blood, **THROUGH** the gospel.

- “Much more then, being now **JUSTIFIED** by his blood,
we shall be **SAVED** from wrath, **THROUGH** Him.” ([Rom.5:9](#))

Obstacles, Hindrances, on the road toward Heaven, we're **STRIVING** to get to the land of glory, but there are things, **ALL** along the way, that **HINDER** it; For instance,

D. EXCUSES

Someone said, "All excuses are **LIES**,"
and when you come to the **BIBLICAL** concept, that's **TRUE**.

- "They **ALL** with **ONE** consent, began to **MAKE** excuse," (reads [Lk.14:18](#))

Instead of **MAKING** excuses, we need to say with Saul of Tarsus,

- "Lord, **WHAT** wilt thou have, **ME** to do?" ([Acts 9:6](#))
- and then "immediately, confer... **NOT** with flesh and blood" and **DO** it, ([Gal.1:16](#)).

The Psalmist said,

- "I made **HASTE**, and delayed **NOT**, to **KEEP** Thy commandments" ([Psalm 119:60](#)).

OBSTACLES on the road toward Heaven, **EXCUSES**.

Apparently a great many have never heard of the **HELP** that God gives, once one is **IN** the kingdom,

Notice these passages:

- "There hath **NO** temptation **TAKEN** you, but such as is **COMMON** to man:
but God is **FAITHFUL**, who will not **SUFFER** you, to be tempted **ABOVE** that ye are **ABLE**;
but will **WITH** the temptation, also make a **WAY** to escape, that ye may be **ABLE** to **BEAR** it."
([1Cor.10:13](#))
- "**BLESSED** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath **BLESSED** us, with **ALL** spiritual blessings, **IN** heavenly places, **IN** Christ:" ([Eph.1:3](#));
- "According as his **DIVINE** power
HE hath **GIVEN** unto us, **ALL** things, that **PERTAIN** unto life and godliness,
through the **KNOWLEDGE** of Him, that hath **CALLED** us to glory and virtue:" ([2Pet.1:3](#));
- "**ALL** scripture is **GIVEN**, by **INSPIRATION** of God,
and is **PROFITABLE** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction **IN** righteousness:
That the man of God may be **PERFECT** (that is, spiritually complete),
THOROUGHLY furnished unto **ALL** good works." ([2Tim.3:16-17](#)).

What wonderful blessings **GIVEN** by God, to those **IN** Christ:

We have the privilege and power of **PRAYER** to

- "come **BOLDLY** unto the throne of grace,
that we may **OBTAIN** mercy, and **FIND** grace to **HELP**, in time of **NEED**." ([Heb.4:16](#))

We have the perfect **EXAMPLE** of Christ, once we're **IN** Him,

- "to **GUIDE** our feet, into the **WAY** of peace." ([Lk.1:79](#))
- "**CAST** thy burden **UPON** the LORD, and **HE** shall **SUSTAIN** thee:" ([Psalm 55:22](#))

So stop making excuses!

Some make the **EXCUSE** that **IF** they did Obey the gospel,
Their actions would **CONDEMN** a loved one.

My belief, nor your belief can **NOT** condemn **ANYONE**,
But rather one condemns themselves by their own **DISBELIEF**.

Notice what the Word of God says in [Jn.3:18](#),

- “He that believeth **ON** Him is **NOT** condemned:
but he that believeth **NOT** is condemned **ALREADY**,
BECAUSE he hath **NOT** believed **IN** the **NAME** of the **ONLY** begotten **SON** of God.” ([Jn.3:18](#)).

And this is why [Mk.16:16](#) says that “he that believeth not, shall be condemned”.

You see, each **ONE** of us, should

- “**GIVE** account of **HIMSELF** unto God,” ([Rom.14:12](#));
- “that every one may **RECEIVE** the things **DONE** in **HIS** body,
according to that **HE** hath **DONE**, whether it be **GOOD** or bad.” ([2Cor. 5:10](#)).

What our parents **DID** or **DIDN'T** do, has **NOTHING** to do, with what we **MUST** do.
The question **ISN'T** what must my **FAMILY** do to be saved, but

- “what must I **DO** to be saved,” ([Acts 16:30](#)).
- Saul of Tarsus said, “Lord, what wilt thou have **ME** to do?” ([Acts 9:6](#))
- Isaiah said, “Here am I, send **ME**.” ([Isaiah 6:8](#)).
- Samuel said, “**SPEAK**, LORD; for **THY** servant **HEARETH**.” ([1Sam. 3:9](#)).

So **STOP** making **EXCUSES** “On the **ROAD** toward Heaven,
because that will cause **YOU**, or **Me**, to wind up in **ETERNAL** Destruction.

Obstacles on the road toward Heaven: **EXTERNAL** religion **ONLY**. In other words,

E. HYPOCRISY

...to **PLAY** a part; ...to be an **ACTOR** on the stage;

- to **CLAIM** to be religious and **NOT** really be, (Read [James 1:26 – 27](#)).

Jesus said

- “They draweth **NIGH** unto me, with their **MOUTH**,
and **HONOURETH** me with their **LIPS**;
but their **HEART**, is far **FROM** me.” ([Matt.15:18](#)).
- “they **SIT** before thee, **AS** my people,
and they **HEAR** thy words,
but they **WILL NOT DO** them:
for **WITH** their mouth, they **SHEW** much love,
but their **HEART**, goeth **AFTER** their covetousness.” ([Ezekiel 33:31](#)),

That'S what causes people to stumble “On the Road Toward Heaven” and wind up in torment.
These are **OBSTACLES** “On the Road Toward Heaven”.

Now let's talk about things that will

II. HELP

On our Road Toward Heaven.

What can **PROPEL** us, to GET to Heaven?

Number one, the power of

A. Gospel Preaching

- The **GOSPEL** of Christ is God's **POWER** to save, (read [Rom.1:16](#))
- And "**IF** our **GOSPEL** be hid, it is **HID** to them that are **LOST**:" ([2Cor.4:3](#))

No wonder Paul called it the

- "...**GLORIOUS** gospel of the **BLESSED** God, which was **COMMITTED** to my trust." ([1Tim.1:11](#))
- and said, "**WOE** is unto me, if I preach **NOT** the Gospel," ([1Cor.9:16](#))

Paul said I,

- "testify the Gospel, **OF** the grace of God," ([Acts 20:24](#)). ...No Gospel; no grace.

If You want to be saved, you'll have to be commended

- "to **God**, and to the **WORD** of His **GRACE**,
which is able to **BUILD** you up,
and to **GIVE** you an inheritance,
among **ALL** them, which are **SANCTIFIED**." ([Acts 20:32](#))

The Bible says

- "their **SOUND** went into **ALL** the earth, and their **WORDS**, unto the **ENDS** of the world." ([Rom.10:18](#))
- and still some have "**NOT** all, **OBEYED** the gospel." ([Rom.10:16](#)).

For those that

- "**OBEY NOT** the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
shall be **PUNISHED** with **EVERLASTING** destruction
FROM the presence of the Lord,
and **FROM** the glory of his power;" ([2Thess.1:7-9](#))

Peter asked,

- "what shall the **END** be of them, that obey **NOT** the gospel of God?" ([1Pet.4:17](#))

And in [Revelations 6:17](#) we read,

- "For the **GREAT** day of his wrath is **COME**; and **WHO** shall be able to stand?"

So one thing that **HELPS** us, "On the Road Toward Heaven",

One thing that **ACCELERATES** our spiritual pace,

...is the **POWER** of **Gospel preaching**.

- "For do I **NOW** persuade men, or God?
or do I **SEEK** to please men?
for **IF** I **YET** pleased men,
I should **NOT** be,
the **SERVANT** of Christ." ([Gal.1:10](#))
- "**WOE** is unto me, if I preach **NOT** the gospel!" ([1Cor.9:16](#))

Help "On the Road Toward Heaven":

B. PERSONAL GROWTH

...personal, spiritual **ADVANCEMENT** in the kingdom of God.

The Bible says

- "giving **ALL** diligence, **ADD** to your **FAITH** virtue; and to **VIRTUE** knowledge; And to **KNOWLEDGE** temperance; and to **TEMPERANCE** patience; and to **PATIENCE** godliness; And to **GODLINESS** brotherly kindness; and to **BROTHERLY KINDNESS** love For **IF** these things be **IN** you, and **ABOUND**, they **MAKE** you, that ye shall **NEITHER** be barren **NOR** unfruitful **IN** the **KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord, Jesus Christ." ([2Pet.1:5-8](#))
- "grow(ing) in **GRACE**, and in the **KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be **GLORY**, both **NOW** and for**EVER**. Amen." ([2Pet.3:18](#))
- **NEVER** leaving our own steadfastness, (read [2Pet.3:17](#))
- "**TAKE**(ing) root **DOWNWARD**", that we might "**BEAR** fruit **UPWARD**", (read [2 Kings 19:30](#))
- "**ABHOR**(ing) that which is evil; **CLEAV**(ing) to that which is **GOOD**." ([Rom.12:9](#))

In every way **ADVANCING** in the kingdom of God. that those about us, can **SEE** our spiritual advancement, as Paul told Timothy that

- "Thy **PROFITING** may **APPEAR** to all," ([1Tim.4:15](#)).

We need to remember that we are **CHANNELS** of blessing; we're **SERVANTS** of God. Our **INFLUENCE** must **BE** for Truth **AND** for Heaven.

Help on the road toward Heaven:

C. LOVE

...in the truest since of the WORD, ...**AMONG** brethren; **BOTH** that affectionate, friendly Love or Phileo Love And that spiritual concern for one another's soul, that Agape Love

We are **COMMANDED** to **LOVE** one another

- [Jn.13:34](#); [Jn.15: verses 12,17](#); [1Jn.3:23](#); [2Jn.1:5](#)

The bible says:

- "...Unto unfeigned **LOVE** of the brethren, **LOVE** one another from the heart, **FERVENTLY**" ([1Pet.2:22](#)).

Consider the Qualities of Genuine Biblical Love:

- "Let **NOTHING** be done **THROUGH** strife or vainglory; but in **LOWLINESS** of mind let each **ESTEEM** other, **BETTER** than themselves." ([Phil.2:3](#))

That kinda sounds like Southern hospitality. 😊

- "Be **KINDLY AFFECTIONED** one to another, **WITH** brotherly love; in honour, **PREFERRING** one another;" ([Rom.12:10](#))

- “With **ALL** lowliness and meekness,
WITH longsuffering,
FORBEARING one another in **LOVE**;
Endeavouring to **KEEP** the unity of the Spirit, **IN** the **BOND** of peace.” ([Eph.4:2-3](#))
- “**LOVE** ...is the **BOND** of perfectness” ([Col.3:14](#))
- And in [1Cor.13:4-8](#), **LOVE**

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ▪ Suffereth LONG | (or, is patient) |
| ▪ Is KIND | |
| ▪ Envieth NOT | (or is not jealous) |
| ▪ Vaunteth NOT | (that is, does not bragg) |
| ▪ Is NOT puffed up | (or, is not arrogant) |
| ▪ Doth NOT behave itself unseemly, | |
| ▪ Seeketh NOT her own | |
| ▪ Is NOT easily provoked, | |
| ▪ Thinketh NO evil | (or does't assume worst motives of others) |
| ▪ Rejoiceth NOT in iniquity | (or in unrighteousness) |
| ▪ BUT rejoiceth in TRUTH | |
| ▪ BEARETH all things, | |
| ▪ BELIEVETH all things | |
| ▪ HOPETH all things, | |
| ▪ ENDURETH all things | |

If we will implement **GENUINE** Biblical **Love**
We will **NEVER EVER** assume the **WORST** motives of our brethren.

- “If a man say, I **LOVE** God, and **HATETH** his brother, he is a **LIAR**:
for he that loveth **NOT** his brother, whom he **HATH** seen,
HOW can he love God, whom he hath **NOT** seen?
And this commandment have we **FROM** Him,
That he who **LOVETH** God, **LOVE** his brother **ALSO**.” ([1Jn.4:20-21](#))
- “We know that we have passed from death unto **LIFE**,
because we **LOVE** the *brethren*.
He that **LOVETH NOT** his brother **ABIDETH** in **DEATH**.” ([1Jn.3:14](#))
- “above **ALL** things, have **FERVENT** love **AMONG** yourselves:
for **LOVE** shall **COVER**, the **MULTITUDE** of sins.” ([1Pet.4:8](#))

Remember this!

We must **NEVER** compromise Truth, because of our Phileo or friendly Love, for one another.
Our **LOVE** for God and His Truth is **ALWAYS** superior to our **LOVE** for one another.

This is why **AGAPE** is the highest form of love, as it seeks out one's spiritual best interests.
Read and study ([Matt.22:37-38](#); [Matt.10:37](#); [Matt.6:33](#); and [Ecc.12:13](#))

But something else that **HELPS** us “**On The Road Toward Heaven**” and **OVERWHELMS** those obstacles we’ve talked about earlier, and that’s **ENJOYING** Christianity,

D. The JOY of Being a Christian.

- “For the kingdom of God is **NOT** meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and **JOY** in the Holy SPIRIT.” ([Rom.14:17](#)).
- “Now the God of hope **FILL** you, with all **JOY** and peace, **IN** believing, that ye may **ABOUND** in hope, through the **POWER** of the Holy SPIRIT.” ([Rom.15:13](#)).
- “rejoice with **JOY**, unspeakable and **FULL** of glory:” ([1Pet.1:7-8](#))
- “**HAPPY** is that people, whose God **IS** the **LORD**.” ([Psalm 144:15](#)).
- “I was **GLAD** when they said unto me, Let us **GO** into the house of the **LORD**.” ([Psalm 122:1](#)).

Sadly, some want to **RUN** from the “house of the LORD”, and **CHOOSE** to live a miserable life.

IF we are faithful, We have,

- “the **PEACE** of God, which **PASSETH** all understanding, Which shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:7](#))

We,

- “can **DO** all things **THROUGH** Christ, which **STRENGTHENETH**” us. ([Phil.4:13](#))
- “God shall supply **ALL** (our) need(s), according to His **RICHES**, **IN** glory, **BY** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:19](#))

We are to,

- “**REJOICE** in the Lord always: and again I say, **REJOICE**.” ([Phil.4:4](#))
- “Finally, brethren,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are true,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are honest,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are just,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are pure,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are lovely,
 - **WHATSOEVER** things are of good report;**IF** there be **ANY** virtue, and **IF** there be **ANY** praise, **THINK** on these things.” ([Phil.4:8](#))

And **STOP** thinking on the earthly things of this world that **HINDER** our joy **IN** Christ.

And be ye **thankful**, and **JOYFUL**, that God has

- “**BLESSED** us, with **ALL** spiritual blessings, **IN** heavenly places, **IN** Christ”: ([Eph.1:3](#))

OBSTACLES On the Road Toward Heaven,

HELP On the Road Toward Heaven:

III. Let Us Go Forward

A. By Living A Godly Life

The Bible says,

- “Blessed are the **PURE** in heart: for they shall **SEE** God.” ([Matt.5:8](#))

Let us go forward,

B. By Being Prayerful

The Bible says,

- “**CONFESS** your faults one to another,
and **PRAY** one for another, that ye may be **HEALED**.
The effectual fervent PRAYER, of a righteous man, **AVAILETH** much.” ([James 5:16](#))

Let Us Go Forward,

C. By Obeying the Gospel

Which is When We Will Be,

- “**DELIVERED** ...from the power of darkness,
and ...**TRANSLATED** ...into the kingdom of his dear Son:” ([Col.1:13](#))

The Bible says, We...

- “turn ...**FROM** darkness **TO** light,
and **FROM** the power of Satan **UNTO** God,
that we may **RECEIVE** forgiveness of sins, and inheritance
AMONG them which are sanctified
BY faith, that is **IN** Christ.” ([Acts 26:18](#))
- **WHEN** we are buried with Christ **IN** baptism, ([Col.2:12](#))
- **RAISED**... to walk **IN** newness of life, **AFTER** baptism (Read [Rom.6:3-4](#))
- “**IF** ye then be **RISEN** with Christ,
SEEK those things which are **ABOVE**,
where Christ **SITTETH** on the right hand of God.
SET your affection on things **ABOVE**,
NOT on things on the earth.
For ye are dead, and your life is hid **WITH** Christ **IN** God.” ([Col.3:1-3](#))

And so “On the Road Toward Heaven”, we have a lot of **HELP**.

Help is **AVAILABLE**.

Let’s push **ASIDE** those obstacles, those hindrances,
and put into our lives those **BLESSINGS** that draw us nearer, still **NEARER** to God.

If Jesus were to come **TODAY**, would we be “**On The Road Toward Heaven**”?

- Or would we still be wallowing in the **PIG MIRE** of evil and sin, (Read [2Pet.2:20-22](#))
- Or would we be **ENDURING** until the end ([Matt.10:22](#)), with the **HELP** of Christ, **THROUGH** His gospel?

Let us be busily **ENGAGED** “**On The Road Toward Heaven**”,
in those things that **HONOUR** Christ and **BLESS** our souls.

- “**SEEK**(ing) **those things which are ABOVE**” ([Col.3:1](#))

We have a lot to be **THANFUL** for in **THIS** Life, and in the Life to **COME**.

May God **HELP** us, to remain faithful “On the Road Toward Heaven”
And **NOT** slow, **NOR** stray to the left hand, nor to the right ([Prov.4:27](#)).

If you have a need,

COME, Believing ([Heb.11:6](#)), Repenting ([Lk.13:3](#)), Confessing ([Acts 8:37](#)),
and being **Baptized INTO** Christ ([Gal.3:27](#))

Don't delay, come NOW, as together, we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon by Johnny Ramsey
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