

The Way of Transgressors is HARD!

by Wayne Goff

“Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15, KJV). The NKJV translates “*transgressors*” as “*unfaithful*.”

One commentator suggests that “*hard*” means “*uncultivated*.” I’m not sure I agree because the contrast in the proverbs is with “*favor*.” Perhaps if one means being *spiritually* uncultivated is *unacceptable* to both men and God, then it can have such a meaning.

The way of the righteous is pleasant and agreeable: “*good understanding gains favor*.” Jesus increased in favor with both God and man when He came to this earth and lived the sinless life (Lk. 2:52). You and I are called to walk in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21). Those who walk in the right ways of the Lord find favor with both men and God. “*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who serves Christ in these things is **acceptable to God and approved by men***” (Rom. 14:17-18).

By way of contrast, the way of the sinner is rough and uneasy, and thus it is unpleasant to the sinner himself. It is “*hard*” -- hard upon others and hard upon the sinner. There is no lasting joy upon the one who is an oppression to men, God and himself. It is amazing that so many people will live sad, hurtful lives and remain in that lifestyle, rather than give their hearts to the Lord and learn the way of the righteous. Consider the homosexual, for example, who will do everything in his power to make his sinful choice acceptable -- but will never find himself satisfied or pleasing to the Lord. Sin cannot be made into goodness! Its nature will not allow it. And so it is with *every* sin that enslaves a man -- he will doggedly follow after it in his own self-willed stubbornness until it destroys him in this life and eternally.

The road to hell is strewn with the thorns and thistles that are the products of the curse of sin itself (Gen. 3). Sinners are laying up for themselves wrath against the day of wrath, when the righteous judgment of God will be enforced upon all mankind (Rom. 2:5).

So, dear reader, don’t ever think “**It’s hard to be a Christian.**” Nothing could be further from the truth! Christ’s yoke is *easy* and His burden is *light* (Matt. 11:30). It has promise for both this life and the eternal one to come (1 Tim. 4:8).

280801