**R918\_Rumination for Aug. 28, 2022**

The **T**heme: **The Way** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *This is the* ***W****ay,* ***W****alk ye in it.* Isa. 30:21

The **T**hots:

Intro: In today’s **W**orld, it is claimed that there are many **W**ays that lead to a destination, as claimed in a proverbial so-called “**W**ise-saying”, “*All roads Lead to Rome*” to mean all paths or activities lead to the center of things. This was literally true in the days of the Roman Empire, when all the empire's roads radiated out from the capital city, Rome. But can it be applied to *All Religions lead to the same God*?

**W**hat the **W**ord of God says:

1. **There are Only two Ways** –
2. The Broad Way: Mt. 7:13, NKJV

*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction,*

*and there are many who go in by it.*

1. The Narrow Way: Mt. 7:14, *NKJV*

 *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

1. **And Jesus is the One and Only Way –** Jn. 14:5, 6
2. The Ques**tion**: *Thomas saith…Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way?*
3. The Solu**tion**: *Jesus saith…I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*
4. The Confirma**tion**: *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name*

 *under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.* Acts 4:12

1. The Consecra**tion** of the New and Living Way: Heb. 10:19, 20

 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest* ***by the blood of Jesus****,*

 *By* ***a new and living way****, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;*

1. **Jesus’ Way to Bring Us Back to God – the Consecrated Way of the Cross. Matt. 16:21**
*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciple how that He must go unto Jerusalem…*
2. *And suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes…*

Cf. *And shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him:* Mt. 20:19a

1. *and be killed…*

Cf. *And after that they had mocked Him…led Him away to crucify Him*. Mt. 27:3

1. *and be raised again the third day.* Mt. 20:19b

Cf. *He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.* Mt. 28:6

1. **All others have gone Out of the Way. Rom. 3:12**

*They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable;* Rom. 3:12a

1. *There is none that doeth good, no, not one.* Rom. 3:12b
2. *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:* Rom. 3:10
3. *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.* Rom. 3:11
4. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* Rom. 3:23

Con. *We know…there is none other God but One.* I Cor. 8:4

*Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord…*

 *And I will receive you."*II Cor. 6:17. NKJV

1. **Beware of the Obnoxious Ways of the false prophets: II Pet. 2:1, 2**

*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

1. The Ways of the False **P**rophets and Teachers: II Pet. 2:1

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you,*

1. Their **D**amnable Heresies – *who privily shall bring in damnable heresies*
2. They **D**eny the Lord – *even denying the Lord that bought them*
3. They will be **D**estroyed – *and bring upon themselves swift destruction.*
4. Their Ways are **P**oisonous: II Pet. 2:2

*And* *many shall follow* *their pernicious ways; by reason of whom* *the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

1. Note their ways are **P**opular – *many shall follow*
2. But their ways are ***P****ernicious* – [*Pernicious* = immoral and licentious]
3. And their ways are **P**rofane – *the way of truth shall be evil spoken of*.
4. Even their **P**rophecies are “**P**owerful” – Matt. 7:22, NKJV

*Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name,*

*cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

1. But the Lord will ***P****rofess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity*. Mt. 7:23
* The Way of the **C**ross was **C**onsecrated for us by the Blood of our Lord.
* Let us **R**emember Him in His death, burial, **R**esurrection and **R**eturn as we drink of the Cup this day.

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come*. I Cor. 11:26

*’Tis the way of the cross! are you willing for this? What does bearing the cross mean to you?
You who’ve given yourself, your all, to God! To God are you wholly true?* M. E. Maxwell.

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 918**

1. In the days of Apostle Peter, Peter warned the believers he wrote to of false teachers who were propagating their pernicious doctrines, prophecies and practices warning them of the danger of following their ways and leaving the truths of the Gospel and the teachings of Christ. He wrote: II Pet. 2:1-2, NKJV – *But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.* *And* ***many*** *will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.*

Jesus, when He was on earth also warned His disciples, (Matt. 7:22, 23, NKJV) –

***Many*** *will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done* ***many*** *wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'*

Today, the situation is not any better; in fact, it is worse! One just needs to take a glance at social media, and one’s eyes cannot but help see the many postings that claim to be of the truth with some even quoting from the Bible twisting the texts out of context to hoodwink the readers of what they preach, prophesy, testify and the so-called miraculous feats they perform are all sourced from the Lord. [Note: While we still believe that our God is a God of Miracles, we definitely cannot believe in the charlatans who do so in His Name.] And it is not surprising that as in the days of Peter and the Lord, ***many*** believed and followed. Today with modern technology, it is so much easier to broadcast these mighty feats drawing *many*, yes, *many,* *many* more, to believe! Truth is proven not by facts but more by the “*many*” who can be made to believe. It was true in Peter’s days; it was true in Jesus’ days and it is more than true in our days. Truth is not proven by biblical facts but by numbers that these false prophets and teachers can muster to follow them with their so-called miracles!

At the end of it all, the final test will be if they are of the Lord! Do such prophets and teachers really know the Lord or will we hear Him saying to them, “*I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity”?*

Are you built on the foundational rock of God’s Word to refute them when confronted or the sandy foundation of a shaky faith in fictitious miracles that cannot stand up to biblical scrutiny? **REFLECT**

1. Jude also warns us of the Wicked Ways of false leaders in the last days, as in Jude 1:11, ASV –

*Woe unto them! For they went in the way of Cain,* *and ran riotously in the error of Balaam for hire, and perished in the gainsaying of Korah.*

Their **P**unishments – So Sure and Certain that they are regarded as having Past –

 Note: the Past Tense: *went, ran, perished*!

Their **P**ernicious ways:

***The Way of Cain*** – he **M**urdered Abel and rejected the **D**octrine of Atonement by Blood.

(Cf. Gen. 4:3) *Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD*.

***The Error of Balaam*** – For **M**oney, he **D**eceived God’s People to want to curse them.

(Cf. Deut. 23:4) *they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor…to curse thee*.

***The Gainsaying of Korah*** – he **D**isrespected God’s **D**elegate, **M**oses,

and **G**athered a **G**roup against him in **D**isobedience.

(Cf. Num. 16:1-3) *Now Korah…rose up…against Moses…and said unto them, …*

*wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?* Num. 16:1-3

Do we see these leaders in our community, nay, even in our churches today?

Like **C**ain, they are heretical, rejecting basic biblical doctrines and foundational truths and substituting their own self-motivated and twisted teachings for their own personal benefit;

Like Balaam, they are **C**orrupt in their dealings, greedy for money, promoting their licentious ways to achieve their gains; so long as they can obtain what they selfishly desire for themselves.

Like Korah, they are **C**razy for power and position to use whatever means at their disposal to achieve what they want. Jude’s warning to all then is still as relevant as ever today: Jude 1:16-21:

*These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

*How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts…beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*

*Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.* Are you paying heed to Jude’s Warnings? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *At the end of the day, someone sang, “I did it my way!”*

*Will you join him, or will you do it God’s Way?*