**R991 Rumination for Jan. 21, 2024**

The **T**heme:**The Two Gates…the Two Ways[Matt. 7:13, 14, ESV]** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *Enter by* ***the narrow gate****…* ***the way is hard*** *that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

***The gate is wide*** *and* ***the way is easy*** *that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many*

The **T**hots: (Intro.)

1. The **W**ide **W**ay – the Way of Man Mt. 7:13
2. It has a wide Gate indicating an **E**asy **E**ntrance – *For the gate is wide and the way is easy*
3. It leads to a Broad Way promising **E**ntertaining **E**xperiences.

But *it leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many*

1. **The N**arrow **W**ay – the Way to God. Mt. 7:17
2. *The gate is narrow and the way is hard*.
3. It *leads to life, and those who find it are few*.
4. **The Way of Man as seen in Cain Gen. 4:1-13**

Intro.: The **W**ay of Man –

*There is a way that seems right to a man,* *but its end is the way to death.* Pro. 16:25 cf. 14:14

e.g. The **W**ay of Cain – Jude 11

 ***W****oe to them! For they walked in the way of Cain and abandoned themselves for the sake of gain*.

1. A **W**rong **A**pproach to God – *Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground.* Gen. 4:3
2. By way of his **F**ruit – he trusted in his works.
3. By way of his **F**lesh – he trusted in his good morality
4. By way of His **F**ree-thinking, i.e. his reasoning: *There is a way that seems right to a man*… Pro. 14:12

 *but its end is the way to death*

1. A **W**rong **A**ttitude to God – *for Cain and his offering He* [God] *had no regard.*

 *So Cain was very angry, and his face fell*  Gen. 4:5

1. A **R**efusal of God’s **I**nstructions - *If you do well, will you not be accepted?* Gen. 4:7a
2. Re: An **A**cknowledgement of Sin – *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man,*

*and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned* Cf. Rom. 5:12

1. Re: An **A**nimal Sacrifice – *the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments*

 *of skins* (i.e. from animals) *and clothed them.* Cf. Gen. 3:21

1. Re: An **A**toning Sacrifice – *by means of His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption*. Heb. 9:12
2. A **R**ejection of God’s **I**nvitation - *If you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door.* Gen. 4:7b
3. Of the **P**rescribed Offering, it is ever available – a “*sin*” (offering)
4. Of the **P**resent Opportunity – “*sin* [offering*] lieth at the door*”
5. A **R**ecipient of God’s **I**ndignation – *My punishment is greater than I can bear* Gen. 4:13

Hence, the necessity for… II Cor. 5:21

1. A **S**inless **S**ubstitute – Jesus who had *no sin*
2. A **S**in **S**acrifice – Jesus *was made sin* [offering]
3. A **S**alvation in the **S**ubstitute’s **S**acrifice - *that we might be made ﻿the righteousness of God in Him*
4. **The Way of God as Seen in Christ.**
5. The **P**roof for a Way Back to God – *the Death of Christ.*  Rom. 5:6-11
6. It is the Way for the *Ungodly* – *Christ died for the ungodly* v. 6
7. It is the Way for the *Sinners* – *while we were still sinners, Christ died for us* v. 8
8. It is the Way for the *Enemies* – [i.e. God’s enemies]

*For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son.* v. 10

1. The **P**rovision for the Way Back to God – *by the Blood of Christ* Eph. 2:13
2. To make Peace for us – *He might create in Himself one new man…so making peace.*  v.15
3. To make Peace with God – *might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross.*  v.16
4. To offer Peace to us –

*And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near*. vv.17, 18

1. The **P**roclamation of the Only way Back to God.
2. Christ is the Only Way – *Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life…*

 *no man cometh unto the Father, ﻿but by Me.* Jn. 14:6

1. Christ is the Only Name – *no other name… given among men by which we must be saved.* Acts 4:12
2. Christ is the Only Mediator –

*For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.* I Tim. 2:5

1. **The Way Back to God Taken by the Christian.**
2. **A**cknowledge **S**in and **A**ccept Christ as **S**aviour (**S**in-bearer). Rom. 10:9 (see #3)
3. **B***elieve in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.* Acts 16:31

*All… who* ***B****elieved in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.* Jn. 1:12, 13

1. **C***onfess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord*

*and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* Rom. 10:9

 *’Tis the same old way, the same old way, There is just one road to Jesus—*

 *By the way of the cross of Calvary! We must travel the same old way.* W. T. Morris,

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R.991**

1. The ***Ways of the World*** today seek to tempt and draw people away from God’s Appointed Way. It is the same Way as used by Satan to tempt our forefathers to disobey God –
2. The Ways of the World: I Jn. 2:15-17

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. ﻿If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* ***For all that is in the world****,* ﻿(1) *the lust of the flesh, and* ﻿(2) *the lust of the eyes, and ﻿*(3) *the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And ﻿the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth ﻿the will of God abideth for ever.*

Satan used this Way of the World (*the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life)* to tempt our fore-parents to sin against God –

Consider his ways below:

1. He Sowed the Seed of Doubt in Eve’s mind concerning what God Said – Gen. 3:1

*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?*

1. Eve Succumbed to Satan’s Subtle twist of God’s Word: Gen. 3:3-5

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

1. **S**atan then **S**ubtly used the **W**ays of the **W**orld to tempt Eve, thus: Gen. 3:6
* ***Lust of the Flesh***: *the woman saw that the tree was good for food,*
* ***Lust of the Eves:*** *and that it was ﻿pleasant to the eyes,*
* ***The Pride of Life:*** *and a tree to be desired to make one wise,*

She thus fell into Satan’s trap: *She took of the fruit thereof, ﻿and did eat,*

And Ensnared Adam to do likewise: *gave also unto her husband with her;*

 *and he did eat.*

Thus: The **S**ubsequent **S**inful **S**ummary of **S**atan’s **S**uccess passed down to all Man:

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;*

 *and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* Rom. 5:12

Today **S**atan is still using the **S**ame **S**ubtle **S**cheme to tempt Man and Woman into Sin.

Do be aware of this and not fall into his evil **W**ays. Peter’s **W**arning in I Pet. 5:8 is relevant:

*﻿Be sober, ﻿be vigilant; because your adversary ﻿the devil, ﻿as a roaring lion, ﻿walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

**Note:** Satan also used the same three Ways of the World to tempt the Lord Jesus in the Wilderness. Study the passage in Matt. 4:1-10 and find how the Lord countered Satan’s use of the Ways of the World, viz. the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life to tempt our Lord and how He overcame each of them. **REFLECT**

1. There was another case when Satan used the same three lustful methods to tempt Achan to sin resulting in Israel’s defeat and downfall at Ai. Read Joshua 7:20, 21 below:

*And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done:* (1)***When I saw*** *among the spoils* (2) *a goodly ﻿Babylonish garment, and* (3) *two hundred shekels of silver, and a ﻿wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight,* ***then I coveted them****, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.*

Perhaps you would like to apply Satan’s worldly threefold method to tempt especially the youths and young adults of today’s generation and see how his lust of the eyes, his lust of the flesh and the pride of life are indeed very relevant tools to lead them away from the Lord. **REFLECT**

**POINTS TO PONDER:**

To **T**riumph over **T**emptations of **W**orldly **L**usts; use the **W**ord as your **W**eapon