

On a journey...

- Have you ever been lost on a journey?
- What ~~do~~ you do?
should
- Have you ever been lost and not known it?
- What ~~do~~ you do?
should
- How do we know we're on the right road?
- How do we know we're on the right road of life?

**A Tale
of Two Roads**
Psalm 73; Matthew 7:13-14

Chinese: page 954
 Spanish: page 741
 English-Green: page 399
 English-Brown: page 579
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From last week...

- The confessions of a worship leader...
 - What his heart was saying
 - But he couldn't say out loud

The normal path

Pride & ease
The wicked
Prosperity

God's path

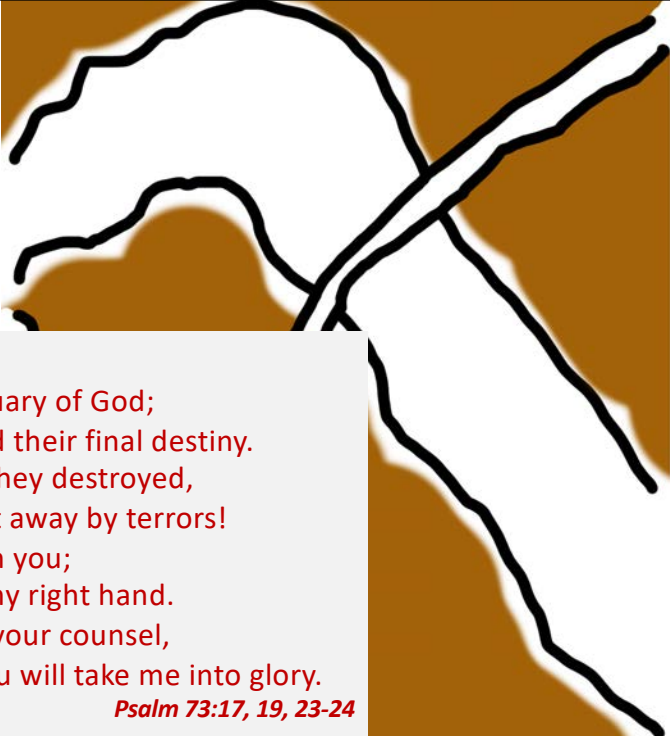
Requires
a pure heart
Includes
many challenges

This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.
All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.

Psalm 73:12-14

Asaph's puzzle

- Following **God's path** can seem harder to follow and it has many challenges
- The **normal path** includes people who are proud, have an easier time, and are more prosperous, even when some are openly rebellious against God



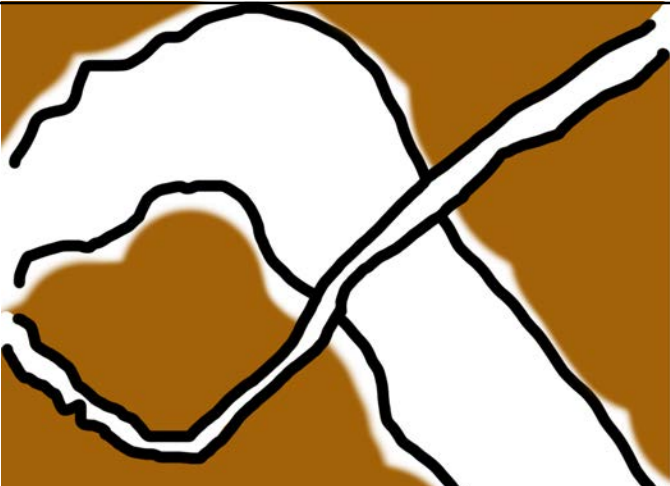
But then...
 I entered the sanctuary of God;
 then I understood their final destiny.
 How suddenly are they destroyed,
 completely swept away by terrors!
 Yet I am always with you;
 you hold me by my right hand.
 You guide me with your counsel,
 and afterward you will take me into glory.
Psalm 73:17, 19, 23-24

Near to God
 Life
 Light
 Joy

Asaph's realization

- When you see the rest of the path, the difference is clear!

Far from God
 Destruction
 Darkness
 Despair



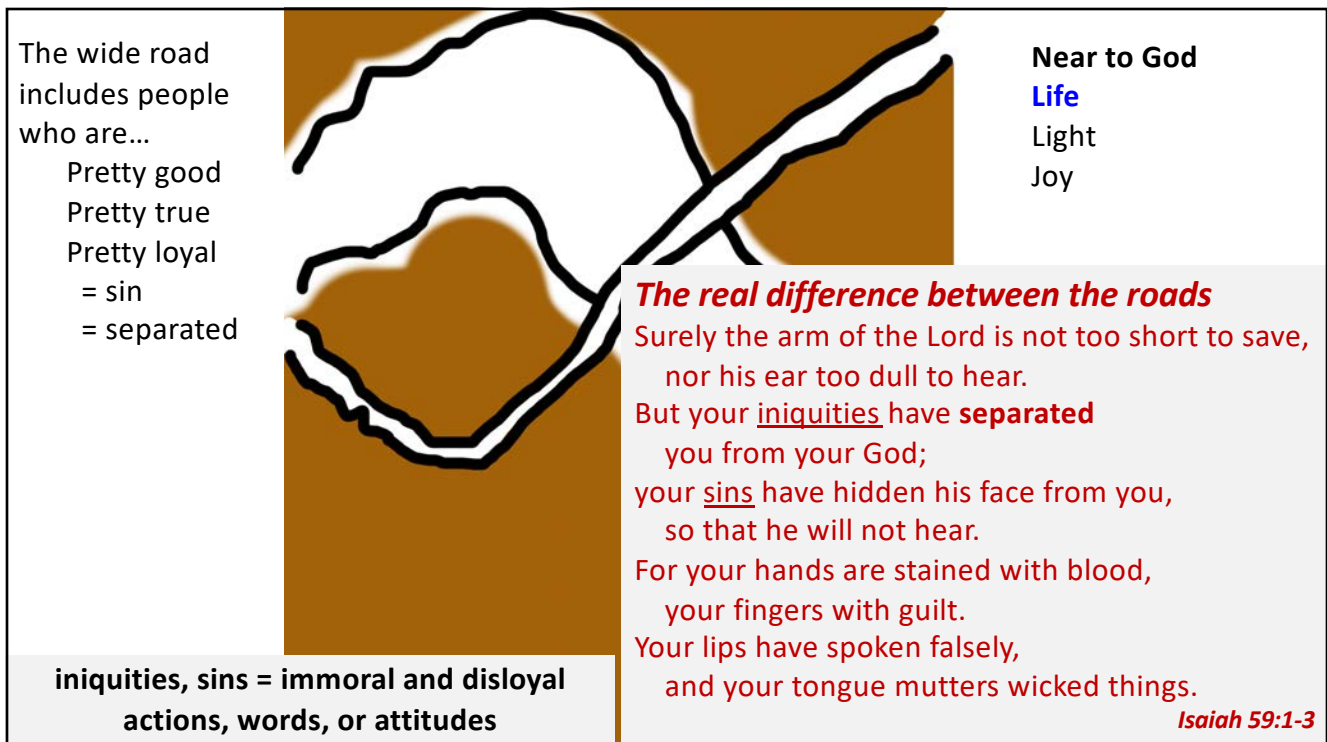
One road is wide
 Easier to find and
 easier to follow
 Many find it

The other road is narrow
 Harder to find and
 harder to follow
 Few find it

Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
Matthew 7:13-14

Near to God
Life
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Near to God
Life
 Light
 Joy

The solution:
 God made Jesus Christ, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5:21*
 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. *Galatians 6:14*

Far from God
Destruction
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Near to God
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**Whenever we celebrate Lord's Supper, we
 "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."**

1 Corinthians 11:26



Near to God
Life
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Whenever we celebrate Lord's Supper, we proclaim...

- the amazing depth of the love of God for broken people
- Jesus' victory over sin and death
- that the greatest possible power (God) is for us,
 so no one and nothing else can block His love

What makes Christianity unlike any other way of life
is **not** its moral standard

The difference is its answer for when we are
only partially good, partially true, and partially loyal

In other words, the difference is what it says
about people like us

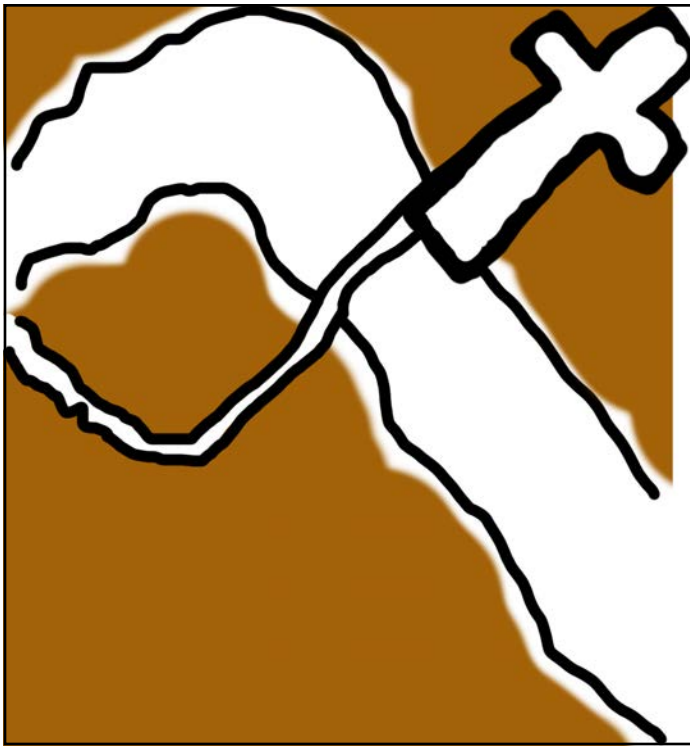
It says...

The Big Idea of Christianity

The death of Jesus Christ
is the only true hope for eternal life with God

“Once you were **alienated** from God and were **enemies** in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you **by Christ’s physical body through death** to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.... **This is the gospel** that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”

Colossians 1:21-23



Becoming a Christian is...

- Admitting that my partial goodness, partial truthfulness, and partial loyalty will never be enough to bring me near to God, the only source of life
- Accepting the death of Jesus Christ in my place as the only path for coming near to God and receiving eternal life

You and I were on the broad road of people who are partially good, partially true, and partially loyal

The Big Idea of Christianity

The death of Jesus Christ
is the only true hope for eternal life with God

Application

- Put your hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - Our partial goodness, partial truthfulness, and partial loyalty will **never** be enough to bring us to life, peace, & wholeness
 - Only the death of Jesus Christ can bring me to God
 - Since God has sacrificed His Son to rescue you, there is no price too high for Him to demonstrate His love for you
 - **This love is astounding! It is not merely an idea or a hope or words, but a physical reality in the person of Jesus Christ**
 - Will you put your hope in this love?

Application

- Put your hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Keep proclaiming the death of Jesus Christ as our hope
 - **To yourself:** no more pride or judgment or fear of separation from God
 - Like Asaph, we may live on the narrow road of the cross, yet have hearts filled with fear, pride, and (self) judgment

Application

- Put your hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Keep proclaiming the death of Jesus Christ as our hope
 - **To yourself:** no more pride or judgment or fear of separation from God
 - **To others around us:** we live in a sick and dying world, yet we have been found and rescued by the source of all life!
 - Our hope is not in our own goodness, or someone else's goodness... it is in the perfect goodness of Jesus Christ!



**The death and resurrection
of Jesus Christ
is the only true hope
for eternal life with God**

Every person is on one of these roads

Every person begins on the broad road

Joining the road to life and God forever is entirely a gift, and it is only a gift, through Jesus Christ

- Where are you?
- Where is your hope?