

AN EPITAPH

I am told that an Indiana cemetery has a tombstone (more than a hundred years old) which bears the following epitaph:¹

*Pause Stranger, when you pass me by,
As you are now, so once was I.
As I am now, so you will be,
So prepare for death and follow me.*

An unknown passerby read those words and underneath scratched this reply:

*To follow you I'm not content,
Until I know which way you went.*

This bids the question, where will you spend eternity—heaven or hell?

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Prov. 14:12).

If you are standing at the crossroads of *destruction* and *life everlasting* perhaps you need some directions.

The way of destruction is the “way which seemeth right unto a man.” It promises worldly pleasures, acceptance, security, glory, and numerous avenues to earn your own salvation. This road is paved with good intentions, but it leads to eternal damnation.

But, thankfully, there is *another* path. It promises deliverance from the bondage of sin. This path brings peace, hope, and eternal life. According to the Scriptures, Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father,” but by Him. This is God’s way, the way of *faith*.

THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION

Dear sinner friend, have you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Whether you realize it or not, you are dangling precariously over the lake of fire by one thin thread of human existence.

The Word of God teaches, “The wages of sin is death!” When Christ stepped across the stars into this world of sin and woe, death was powerless over Him. Christ knew no sin, therefore death could not lay its icy grip upon the shoulder of our Lord.

Tell me then, how is it that at the end of His earthly journey He is suffering and dying in shame and disgrace? You see, Christ wasn’t dying for His sins, for



He knew no sin. He was dying for *your sins* and *my sins* upon that cruel tree. Our sins and iniquities were laid upon Him that He might redeem us back to God through His precious blood.

Now God turns to a lost and dying world with the good news of Calvary. Simply believe that Christ died for your sins *personally*, was buried, and rose again the third day, and God will wonderfully save you from the wrath to come according to the riches of His grace.

Unsaved friend, there are *thousands* of ways to leave this life; when you do, make sure you do not leave without Christ. We beg you to remember the chilling voice of those that perished in the days of Noah, "*believe, before it's too late!*"

—Pastor Paul M. Sadler

1. James S. Hewett (Ed.), *Illustrations Unlimited*, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL, 1988, pg. 145.

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