

The Road Less Traveled

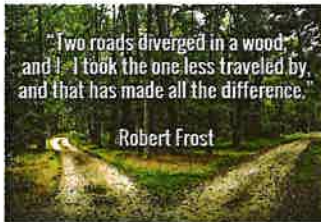
Robert Frost's 1916 poem, "The Road Not Taken," is one of the most often quoted poems of all time. The poet speaks of two roads, each "just as fair," but the traveler chose one, concluding "I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." Frost indicated that most have misunderstood the poem. The choice was actually random—the traveler didn't know which was best. The difference wasn't from a wise choice, but a random choice.

In life, we often have to choose between two roads that seem equally good or bad. We don't know which road is better, because we cannot see the end of the road with either choice. We just have to choose. But what we must always remember is that when we choose the beginning of the road, we also choose the end of the road. That is why it is so important that we not only choose the right road in life, but that we periodically evaluate the road we are now on, to see if we should change roads.

Saul of Tarsus was on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians. He entered the city as a blind man, and exited as a follower of the Christ he persecuted. The Lord told Ananias, "Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake" (Acts 9:15-16). As Ananias taught him, Saul counted the cost (Luke 14:28) of starting on the road of service to Jesus Christ, and immediately obeyed when Ananias commanded him to be baptized (Acts 22:16).

Jesus warned that there are two ways—the broad way of the world and the narrow way of following Him. "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). The narrow way is definitely "the road less traveled." But it makes all the difference—not only in this life, but in the world to come. Are you on the right road today? Is it time for a change?

- Hillview Church of Christ, Birmingham, AL (*Bulletin Gold*) -



Choices are made in brief seconds and paid for in the time that remains. - Paolo Giordano

News Notes

SYMPATHY: To Jim & Linda Hall & Family at the recent passing of Linda's mother, Audrey Geer. God bless and comfort them in their time of sorrow.

COVERED DISH DINNER TODAY: About Noon at the Fellowship Building followed by our **early afternoon service at 2:00 p.m.** at the Church Building.

CONVERT'S CLASS: Resumes **this Thursday, Dec. 5th at 11:00 a.m.** Open to everyone.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: Next **Saturday, Dec. 7th, 8:00 a.m.** at Coplin's in Newell.

TO HAVE SURGERY: Paula Clutter is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on **Monday, Dec. 9th** at Weirton Medical Center.

HOLIDAY GATHERING: **Friday, Dec. 13th, 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Fellowship Building. Sign-up sheet in the foyer. Plan to attend.

PANTRY: Butter.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Twila Adamson, Randy Beagle, Sue Haught, John Sprout, Bob McMahan, Scharlotte Jones, Becky McKitrick, Dean Spencer, Harry Huff, Peggy Linger, Nancy Cox, Barbara DeLong, Gary & Marlene Evans, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox-Chester:** Janice Hutchins, Mary Johnson. **Elsewhere:** Carolyn Carbone, 103 Orange Blossom Lane, Ranson, WV 25438. Herman McHan, 7401 Elmwood Dr., Lisbon, OH 44432.

God's Great Love

One of the most vivid characteristics of our Lord is that he is "a God of love." The Old Testament Prophet David stated that God was "full of faithful love."

David wrote: (Psalms 103:8), "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His faithful love toward those who fear Him" (Psalms 103:11). And, he also wrote: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him" (Psalms 103:13). I love this Davidic verse: "... from eternity to eternity the LORD's faithful love is toward those who fear Him" (Psalms 103:17).

We must understand that our Lord is love. Love is not merely one of His attributes. It is God's very nature. The Bible says: "And we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and the one who remains in love remains in God, and God remains in him" (1 John 4:16).

But one of the most remarkable things about God's love is that He loved us first. We did nothing to warrant God's love. He loved us even before we were born. "We love because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

- Larry Fitzgerald, Woodlawn church of Christ, Abilene, TX (*Bulletin Digest*) -