

Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T
MESSENGER

"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 16, 2026

Heart to Heart...

Jeremiah said, *"I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps."* (Jer. 10:23) When anyone tries to direct their own steps, with their own thinking/reasoning, it will always lead to ruin. Wisdom speaks, *"There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."* (Prov. 14:12) When people do what they want to do, how they want to do it, it will lead them in one direction, spiritual death! It might feel right, be logical and have all the makings of happiness and contentment, but it won't end up that way. The Psalmist wrote, *"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."* (Psa. 119:105) Jesus in the midst of being tempted by the devil said man would live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matt. 4:4) It's so easy to say we let God show us the way, when in reality, we set our own course and ask God to come alongside the journey!

One of the emptiest statements you hear people make is, "The Lord is in control of my life." In reality, He is, but not as the one making the statement means. When we make such statements, to whom are you giving the credit for the failures and sin?

The story goes of an old Scottish woman who went from house to house selling thread, buttons and shoestrings. When she came to an unmarked crossroad, she would toss a stick up in the air and go the direction it pointed when it landed on the ground. One day she came to a crossroad and tossed the stick time and time again. A passerby asked, "Why do you keep tossing the stick up over and over?" The woman replied, "Because it keeps pointing to the left and I really want to go right!"

How many times do we do the same? We ignore God and His word, or use His word for our own selfish purpose by pulling verses out of context, just so we get to accomplish our own will. Have you ever tried to correct someone from God's word when they were in direct conflict with His teachings? What kind of response did you get? *"Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you, reprove a wise man and he will love you."* (Prov. 9:8) People can say a lot of things about the Lord, but allow God's word to lead, influence and reprove them and their response will tell you everything. They see their own path as right!

What about you? What and who influences your thinking and reasoning the most? Do you allow God and His word direct you? Do you follow what you feel or what others influence you? It's a matter of life and death! Think about it!!!

-Brent