

Do You Know Which Way Is Up?

Joe Slater

“That poor fellow doesn’t know which way is up!” By that we mean he’s confused, misinformed, or maybe not the brightest bulb in the chandelier.

When it comes to spiritual matters, seek above all else to know which way is up! And once you know, follow that way.

You must select between two ways. Hear the word of the Lord: *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14).

A vast majority travel the broad way leading down to destruction. Why? Because it’s easy! I grew up with dirt roads, many of them narrow. Moving farm implements from one field to another presented serious problems. I didn’t like narrow roads then, and like them even less now. Give me a wide, paved highway any day!

Most feel the same about how they live. No restrictions, plenty of company – sounds great, doesn’t it? (Until you consider the destination, that is!)

What about the way that leads upward to life in Heaven? Not only is it difficult, but even the entrance (gate) is narrow. If you pass through that gate, it will be on purpose. You won’t travel the difficult way by coincidence. You must be content to be in the minority, for those on the difficult way are not many, but few. But oh, the destination: Life!

Jesus said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life”* (John 14:6). If you know Jesus, you know which way is up. Follow Jesus!

Dem Bones

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones” (Hebrews 11:22, ESV).

Not long ago in my hometown (Lebanon, TN), an unusual exchange took place. One body was exhumed and another put in its place.

Long story short, Captain Glen Walker was one of 1,100 marines killed on the island of Tarawa during WW II. When possible, the war department ships the bodies of fallen soldiers back home for burial. This they did in 1946.

Recently, however, it was discovered that the wrong body had been buried in a Lebanon cemetery for all these years. The body of Captain Walker was identified elsewhere. Thus, the misidentified body was exhumed on July 24, 2021, and Captain Walker's bones were laid to rest in their proper place in Lebanon.

In Genesis 50, Joseph, near death, gave instructions that his bones be taken to the land of promise (Heb. 11:22).

I like Albert Barnes's comment relative to this event. "He had such a firm belief that they would possess the land of promise, that he exacted an oath of them that they would remove his remains with them, that he might be buried in the land of his fathers. He could not have exacted this oath, nor could they have taken it, unless both he and they had a sure confidence that what God had spoken would be performed."

In the final analysis, the resting place of the bones of Joseph, or Captain Walker, or of ourselves, for that matter, is not of great importance. It is the resting place of our eternal souls that really matter.

God has a promised place of rest for all of us. There will be no mistaken identity. Christ will take His church to be with the Father (I Thessalonians 4:17).

--Roy Allen Crutcher (Mt. Carmel, IL)

OPEN YOUR EYES AND HEART, AND YOU WILL SEE

There is a theory among some Christians that maybe God created the world and the things in it through the organic evolutionary process. This is an obvious attempt to combine macro evolution (being taught in our public schools) and the Bible. But if we read the Bible carefully, we see that this cannot be true.

One verse as a case in point would be Romans 1:20: *“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.”* I have a question for those who believe that God created all things through the process of the current theory of organic evolution: “If God’s power has been clearly seen since the creation of the world, by whom has it been seen?” The evolutionary theory claims that man is a latecomer in the grand scheme of things (coming over 4 billion years after the earth). But who has seen the creation **since the world began**? It is obvious that it is man, since the Bible states that man was created on day 6 of the creation week (Genesis 1).

Romans 1:20 states that all we have to do is open our eyes and heart, and we will not only see that “God did it”, but that God did it the way He says He did.

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)

The Gods Of This Age

The Colson Center for Christian Worldview defines “the gods of this age” as sex, science, state, and stuff.

Very true, and how convenient that they all begin with “s”!

--via Preacher Talk