

For Meditation and Self-reflection

Mathew 7:13-14: *“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.”*

1 Corinthians 15:22: *“For as in Adam ALL die, so in Christ ALL will be made alive. But each in his own turn.”*

Romans 14:11: *“It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'”*

1 Timothy 4:10: *“and for this we labor and strive, that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of ALL men, and especially of those who believe.”*

Luke 9:23: *“Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”*

The Christian faith is based on many paradoxical and counterintuitive truths. Jesus taught us to love our enemies, give in order to receive, and die in order to live. He taught us that the best way forward is the most difficult.

The easy path leads us backward. Rough is the path that leads us forward. The road that leads to success and spiritual enlightenment is fraught with many hardships, failures, and pitfalls. The trials we face in life are much easier to endure, however, if we have confidence that eventually things will get better.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:22, all of us will eventually be saved, *“each in his own turn.”* Some of us will be saved sooner than others. God loves us all, despite our sins, and in the end love always wins. In this life, some find the way, while others don't, but that is not the end of the story. In the end, sooner or later, either in this life or the next, all of us will eventually find our way back to God.

The wider path may be easier, but leads to *“destruction”* (literal translation: *“getting lost”*). The quicker way comes with a price. The price Jesus paid was an agonizing death on the Cross of Calvary. But that was not the end of the story. Today He lives in heavenly glory. He asks us to follow Him. Though the path is not easy, in the end we will win.