

by Mark Maulding

Imagine for a moment that you are walking along a path etched on the top of the beautiful Rocky Mountains. The sky is crystal clear with a beautiful blue hue. The clouds remind you of cotton candy and seem so close that you can almost touch them. On the left side of this breathtaking mountain ridge is a mighty rushing river. A fall down that side of the mountain will mean sure death from the powerful rushing waters. On the right side of the ridge is a gully filled with large sharp rocks that are menacing in their sheer size. A fall into that gully will also mean certain death from the injuries inflicted on mere mortal flesh. What is the point of this vivid scene?

It is an allegory. The high road on the top of the ridge represents the walk of grace. On this road, we discover the reality of Christ in us, intimacy with our Father, leadership from and power to follow the Holy

Spirit, God's love and acceptance of us, our identity in him, effective ministry and freedom to love others at a depth that was impossible before. It is the road we all want, but so few seem to find. But, oh how it makes all the difference when you walk the road of grace (Galatians 2:20).

The rushing river represents the world. Those Christians who suppose that grace is a license to sin are often swept away by the cares of this world.

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And the life of Christ in them is choked by the world, according to Matthew 13:22. Be careful that you do not use your freedom in grace as

an excuse to disregard God's Word, or you will be drowned by the strong currents of the world.

***It is the road we all want, but so few seem to find.***

The sharp rocks represent legalism. Legalism is a misuse of God's law. The law is designed for those outside of Christ so they may discover their sin and need for a Savior (Galatians 3:23-26).

Legalism is also the adherence to man-made religious rules which are intended to be the pathway to holy living. Yet, sin derives its power in rules and laws (Romans 7:5). Legalism will actually keep you off the road of grace. In fact, legalism will kill you. It will break you into pieces. Many sincere Christians have left the church discouraged and disenchanting because they mistook legalism for true Christianity. Do not be deceived into following legalism. It is deadly.

Stay on the road of grace! Follow Jesus Christ in you who is full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Jesus said that this road is narrow and few there will be who find it. Yes, this road has many obstacles. Yet, all of these obstacles can actually be a way to keep us dependent on our God. It is not easy to stay on this road—but it is worth it! The One who is in us will keep us on this narrow road if we will keep our spiritual focus on him. Taking the road of grace makes all the difference! Stay on it for life! ☐

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