

## A Sure and Certain Guide

Are you looking for the sure and certain guide to your religious life? Some think that all different ways are safe and secure guides to religious life. We cannot trust some guides. Jesus said some ways lead to destruction: "Enter you in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby (Matt, 7:13-14)." Jesus also warned us to let these ways alone: "Let them alone: they are blind guides (Matt. 15:13-14)." What should we consider in choosing a sure and certain guide for our religious lives?

First, we do not have the ability to guide ourselves. Jeremiah said, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walks to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23)." Since we cannot direct our steps, we all need assistance; however, that assistance must come from a sure and certain guide.

Second, we must avoid the ways that lead to death. Solomon warned, "There is a way which seems right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12)." Since the ways of error lead to spiritual death, how can we avoid being deceived and victimized by religious error.

Third, we must seize the only sure and certain guide in religion, the word of God. David said, "The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul: the testimony of Jehovah is **sure**, making wise the simple (Ps 19:7)." If we want to know what to believe and how to live, the Bible is the sure and certain guide. David also said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path (Ps 119:105)."

Fourth, we can trust what the Bible, the sure and certain guide, says upon every religious question. God's word provides all that we need to answer these questions: "Seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him (2 Peter 1:3)." The scriptures constitute a sure and certain guide, making us complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Finally, the sure and certain name to wear is Christian and that name alone (Acts 11:26). The true and certain church is the church of Christ (Matt. 16:13-19; Rom. 16:16; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-30). The sure and certain guide to salvation is exactly what Jesus and the apostles taught: believe, repent, and be baptized (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:22-40).

We can be sure and certain of the answers the Bible, the sure and certain guide, gives us.