PIONEER: One who goes before, as into the wilderness, preparing the way for others."

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

THOU SHALT NOT

The laws of God are given to us to direct our minds so we may live good and blessed lives. His laws are negative. That is, they tell us what NOT to do: "Thou shalt NOT ...". Thus, God's laws are road signs to warn us which paths to NOT take ... leaving us free to take the good paths. Avoiding bad paths is our first discipline protecting us from the hurtful snares that await all who take the bad paths.

We live our lives making choices ... choosing which paths we will NOT take. Thus through process of elimination, if we do our job well, we end up on better paths ... usually ones that are less traveled. Souls with courage of conscience are the ones who opt for the less-traveled paths. This is the singular highest ethic of freedom. Lesser souls follow the trends of the masses.

Robert Frost aptly described this ethic – the pioneer spirit – in his poem: THE ROAD NOT TAKEN:

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference."

Our lives are shaped as much by the roads we DON'T take, as by the roads we DO take. Taking the good path means first deciding against the bad ones. And since the wrong paths are more promoted than the good ones, we must spend more time and attention to sort out the bad ones. Thus, it is imperative that we develope our skills of sorting out bad roads.

The Beast System sets out its own road signs pointing people toward the broad, bad roads. Many people end up trusting those signs and feeling secure in the system. The Beast System defines happiness on its own terms ... terms which are defined by leaders who, themselves, are unhappy. They are unhappy leaders with unhappy followers.

Learning how to avoid unhappy roads is an acquired skill. Children need experienced adults to help them learn this ... and, of course, the Beast System devotes much time and energy distracting and misdirecting children. Its main tool for this is the public school system. The public-

educated child is greatly handicapped because he has been denied this training. Rather, public schools train children to seek the bad roads.

Children need to learn who NOT to trust; which people they should NOT please; which definitions of happiness are NOT accurate, and which gods they should NOT serve. Public schools do NOT do this. American children today have the unfortunate prospect of growing up in a system tantamount to the Egyptian system that brainwashed, enslaved and abused the children of Israel.

After Israel was delivered from Egypt, Joshua said this:

14. Now therefore fear Yahweh, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river, and in Egypt; and serve Yahweh.

15. And if it seem evil to you to serve Yahweh, then <u>choose</u> <u>you this day whom you will serve</u>; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Yahweh.

Josh. 24:14-15

THE PIONEER SPIRIT

There are a number of qualities in a true Christian's life that make him different from the masses ... and better. The one particular quality that goes to the very heart of what it takes to be a Christian is the courage to NOT follow the masses down the bad roads. Indeed, this quality (this spirit) is more than mere courage: it is faith toward God ... that He indeed does provide good roads. It is thirst for truth ... a need to seek the BEST roads, not merely the easiest ones.

Surprisingly, it is also following the Biblical mandate for us to "separate" ourselves from the masses who follow the bad roads of the Beast System.

17. Wherefore come out from among them, and be you separate, says the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;

2 Cor. 6:17

The call to be "separate" is what the Bible calls "holy spirit." We are to be "separate" and "holy." The word "holy" in Greek is "hagios" - which means "to be separate." We cannot be "holy" without being separate. "Holy spirit" is disposition (preference) to separate yourself from the common herd; to take the road less traveled.

9. But you are called-out offspring, a royal priesthood, a <u>holy</u> (i.e., "separate") company, a special people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Pet. 2:9

Advocates of the Beast System often think of pioneers as people who just don't like staying in one place. Or perhaps they see them as loners who just don't have what it takes to make it in the system. But I, personally, don't accept that definition. "Pioneers" are not people who "can't make it." In fact, just the opposite is true.

Pioneers can "make it" wherever they happen to be. They bravely go into the areas that intimidate people of less mettle. They seek better ways, and are not deterred that those ways are unmapped. Pioneers take roads less traveled.

Pioneers are not nonconformists. Rather they are seekers of better ways ... more honest ways of life. To escape corruption of the system (both mentally and physically) pioneers move away from the corrupted masses ... to improve their lives and their futures.

In contrast to pioneers some people are like lemmings ... the ultimate herd animals. Lemmings are little mouse-like animals renowned for blindly lining up and following one another, single file, in mindless paths, each one's nose at the tail of the one in front. They have no idea where they are going, they just follow. Often they follow right off cliffs ... unable to see or think about what is just ahead ... mindlessly following the ones in front of them. People often imitate lemmings, assuming the masses can't be wrong and that they know where they are going.

Pioneers insist upon knowing where they are headed ... and they are comfortable in open spaces.

Non-pioneers often have the mistaken assumption that progress is possible only by working within the existing system ... no matter how corrupt it happens to be. Indeed, the pressure upon men is to do just that; to not break ranks. In fact, pioneers are often hated because they choose not to follow the broad way, but instead choose the narrow way. Non-pioneers may judge this to be an insult or an indictment against the common man and the common way. And indeed it is! No doubt. But insult is not the intent of the pioneer ... it is merely the perception of weak people looking to blame someone else for their weakness.

The pioneer is a doer ... achiever. He takes the road less traveled because it offers hope. Real hope ... not just lies and empty promises like we hear from politicians and

preachers. The pioneer forges ahead – by himself if necessary ... because to not do it would deny his inner conscience. He must do what he believes to be right. He does it because choosing the path of least resistance would be like selling his soul and losing faith.

The pioneer, and the pioneer spirit, is rare today. It has been replaced with the spirit of the common herd.

THE COMMON HERD HAS "FALLEN AWAY" FROM GOD

To be a real pioneer we must first "resist" the flow of mankind that follows the herd ... the easy path. Without the courage to resist or restrain one's self a man can't be a pioneer. Every leader worth his salt is a pioneer. It takes backbone, courage and restraint to begin a journey that may demand that you take a road less traveled.

5. Remember therefore from whence you are <u>fallen</u>, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come to you quickly, and will remove your candlestick out of its place, unless you repent.

Rev. 2:5

32. Fear not, <u>little flock</u>; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Luke 12:32

Scripture teaches us that there is a spirit of lawlessness in natural man. This spirit leads him away from life, and into spiritual death. This spirit of lawlessness is addressed directly by Paul in 2 Thessalonians. He refers to it as "the mystery of lawlessness."

It seems that the natural tendency of people is to follow the paths of least resistance ... which, like water, always flow downward. Only the few ... only the spiritual pioneers are motivated to step out of the line of spiritual lemmings and forge off on their own ... choosing to follow Christ's leading. These are "the remnant" who choose the road less traveled. These are the few who strengthen us instead of weaken us. These are the few who "resist" ... who refuse to go down without a struggle.

Paul says we must "resist" and separate ourselves first ... then that spirit of lawless will be revealed:

- 3. Let no man deceive you by any means: for there must first come a falling away (through inner lawlessness), and that man (spirit) of lawlessness be revealed, the son of destruction.
- 4. The one opposing and exalting himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God showing himself that he is god.
- 5. Do you not remember that when I was yet with you I told you these things?
- 6. And now you have known that which is waiting to be revealed in its time.

- 7. For the mystery of lawlessness does already work within. Now only the one resisting will come out of their midst.
- 8. And then shall the lawless be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will consume with the spirit of his mouth and will disable by the manifestation of his presence.

2 Thess. 2:3-8

The term "man of lawlessness" here portrays the corrupt spirit of men who have "fallen away." The term does not refer to a singular individual, but rather to the generic character of all compromised men who have no regard for God's law. This "man of lawlessness" is every man who chooses the easy, broad path of following their bellies and serving "the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 Jn. 2:16).

"The man of lawlessness" depicts the spirit of the masses who are "fallen away." They have lost both the will and the need to "restrain" themselves or to resist following the common herd of mindless lemmings.

- 13. Enter in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there are who find it:
- 14. Because narrow is the gate, and tight is the path, that leads to life, and few there are that find it.

Mtt. 7:14

To find the narrow way of God you must actually make an effort. You cannot accidentally fall into it. You cannot inherit it. It requires that you first "resist" or "restrain" yourself from following the lemmings. It requires that you develop a preference to be "different" from the masses. In fact, if one day you happen to discover that you are fitting in with the general population, this is reason for you to be concerned. In contrast, you should rejoice and be comforted to realize that you do not fit in with the masses.

God's judgment has fallen upon our generation ... and it is destroying itself. These people refuse to "restrain" themselves, and therefore they are unable to acquire "eyes that see, or ears that hear." They do not see; they do not hear. They are dumb followers, mindless and lost. They resent the pioneer spirit because it manifests a higher character which they don't have, and thus they build mental walls to block their view so they don't have to look at truth.

This generation, which exists all around us, is lost in self-absorption, mindlessness and apathy. Its not that they are incapable of doing right ... they simply don't care enough to try. They are "soulless." They are empty "clouds, without water" (Jude 1:12).

PREFER TO BE SEPARATE

Celebrate the fact that you prefer roads that are less traveled. Realize that you are blessed beyond measure to be one of the remnant who have a spirit of holiness (separateness). Being common and following the herd is disgust-

ing. It is demeaning. Rejoice when your spirit prevents you from following the trends of this generation. Thank God when you see yourself steering away and losing interest in being "one of the gang." It means that God is calling you out. It is the greatest blessing you could possibly receive.

THE HERD FOLLOWERS

How can we recognize the herd followers? Where is the line between being amicable and personable, and being a mindless idiot ... a lemming?

Herd followers are usually people who are insecure in themselves. They don't like themselves ... and they envy others they perceive as smarter, prettier, luckier, born into better families, etc.. In trying to emulate others whom they assume to have better lives they turn into herd followers ... not realizing they are throwing away their own souls.

The herd follower usually has a poor self image and practices being a chameleon, taking the shape and color of other people or groups.

Instead of seeking to understand what Christ has done, and is doing, with him, he invests all his attention into trying to be someone else. Children emulate movie stars and professional athletes. Adults emulate bankers and politicians. Why? Because these are the models of "success" that society promotes. And people without a spiritual connection to Christ are left desperate for role models.

Elvis Presley has been dead for decades and still draws more devotees than Jesus did during his mortal years.

Young girls actually envy and follow the vacant role models of ridiculous and demeaning celebrities. Look at a typical public school today. Notice the kind of clothes the kids wear; the kind of hairstyles and makeup they wear; the kind of language they use. It isn't difficult to figure out who their role models are ... who they are following.

Look at a typical person in the work place. It may not be as obvious as it is among kids, but adults are following Babylonian role models they get from TV and in politics. They are head-over-heels in debt, living on credit cards, and getting angry at politicians because they aren't fixing all their personal problems. They are ignorant of basic truths, but they can "text" on their cell phones at amazing speeds, and develop slick Facebook pages. They drive new cars they don't own, and they never eat at home ... and they can't figure out why their lives aren't improving. They are proud of their "troops" who are killing innocent people in lands they cannot locate on a map. They have multiple marriages, live-ins, and children who aren't sure who their fathers are ... and are relieved that public school is there to take care of the kids because they don't have time themselves to do it.

How did things get into such a mess as this? It happened because people followed people instead of Christ. This is the result of taking the broad, well-travelled roads instead of preferring the roads that lead to righteousness: the roads less traveled.

People become lemmings because they are persuaded that being a lemming equates to success and happiness. It starts early. Young kids are being brainwashed to

follow idiots on TV and in the movies. They loath their parents. They wear their baseball caps backwards and tear the knees and seats out of their jeans. Once upon a time it was a shame to wear clothes with holes in them or look like a clown. Some boys wear pants that droop so low that the crotch is down about their knees. They dye their hair funny colors, pierce their noses and tongues, get tatoos and listen to "rap music." American kids have been turned into pathetic clowns ... and they think they are cool. How does this happen to a generation? It comes from being lemmings: from having idiots as role models and from throwing away their minds and their souls.

They are told that they need a public education in a public school ... so they can learn to fit in with the great American society. This includes, when they are a little older, going to a college or university to prepare their minds so they can be successful and financially secure. A college education typically costs from \$50,000 to \$200,000 and can only be accomplished by getting a college loan that they will be making payments on for most of their lives.

After college they can fit in with the American corporate structure, or with the government ... which then assures them a place in society so they can get their piece of "the American dream." It all sounds so well-planned and straight forward.

What they don't realize is that little by little, step by step, they are being ruined so that they are no good for anything other than fitting in with the herd; to become small nondescript components in a huge machine that is destroying America. Eventually these poor souls will look around and wonder how they became so unhappy ... and how did they lose sight of who they really are ... indistinguishable from the millions of other little gears in the machine.

Unhappy, divorced, in debt, and lost ... they will wonder what happened to the promise of the American dream.

This is the typical result of following wrong role models and being funneled into the "broad way" ... to become enamored by the bright lights on the great Babylonian main street where dreams fade and become nightmares of empty and burned-out lives, leaving them with a feeling of abandonment ... like a woman violated and left in a back alley. These typically end up with no faith in Christ ... because they never learned who He is.

How different things could be if, back in the early years, they had taken "the road less traveled." If only they hadn't trusted the masses. If only they had preferred a life of being separate (holy). If only they had seen the advantage of not being one of the herd. If only they hadn't envied celebrities who feigned happiness but in fact were miserable and lost. If only young girls had admired healthy role models instead of the Hollywood whores. If only parents had believed in Christ instead of Wall Street and the American system. If only Americans had not taken the broad road to destruction.

STEP UP TO THE PLATE

28. Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and

I will give you rest.

29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest to your souls.

30. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Mtt. 11:28-30

Some may fear that the road less traveled will be hard and wearisome. Jesus tells us that if we take on his burden we will find that it is light. In other words, our lives will be better and our difficulties will be lighter. We will be better equipped to bear whatever burdens we may encounter.

In most cases the great men of history who accomplished good things for man and for Christ were by their very natures separate from the masses. They weren't attracted to the frivolous majority ... but rather chose to do something different; to use their brains and their talents to make their lives stand for something good.

Tindale, Wycliff, Gallaleo, Newton, Capernicus, Lister, Pasteur, Bastiat, Tesla, Spooner, Emry and many others of their kind have stood alone and were hated by their generation for refusing to conform to the silly doctrines of the masses. Some were persecuted, some burned at the stake, and some ruined and left penniless. The masses believed the ridiculous fables taught by the churches and the houses of government. They believed in a flat earth, geocentrism, that disease was caused by "bad air" or supernatural demons and devils. Anyone who dared to dispute their idiotic doctrines were "heretics." But it took the courage to stand alone to break through the ignorance and prejudice canonized by the lemming societies.

THE CONNECTION

In earlier years I tended to focus on the finer points of doctrine. I studied them and taught them. Today I see the more urgent need to focus on the basic disconnects that alienate people from God.

Over the years I learned that fine tuning doctrine was useless when people were opting for the broad, popular roads. I've known people who could quote scripture and discuss doctrine, but lived lonely and confused lives. They knew scripture, but they didn't know the God who gave it.

I see hopelessness today among the people, and I believe it is mostly because of that basic disconnect. They don't really know God because they started early taking bad roads. Consequently they lose faith and become confused.

To escape that confusion it is absolutely essential that people be willing to take "the road less traveled" and not feel disadvantaged by it ... but rather blessed.

May you find comfort and pride in being separate and holy (saints). Rejoice that you have been called out of the confused masses. Celebrate your distinctive difference.

Pray for repentance in America,