

# Following Jesus: The Straight Gate

by Hans R. Waldvogel

---

*The sermon emphasizes the importance of following Jesus Christ and surrendering one's life to Him in order to experience salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Duration:** 23:43

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:9, John 6:63, John 14:3, Acts 2:38, Romans 8:14, 1 Corinthians 11:1, Ephesians 5:18

**Topics:** "Following Jesus"

---

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of being a follower of Jesus Christ. He highlights that Jesus is the only way to the Father and without Him, no one can be reconciled to God. The preacher discusses how humanity has been seeking the way through various philosophies and fields of study, but ultimately, it is only through Jesus that salvation is found. He urges the listeners to examine their own faith and ensure that they are truly following Jesus, rather than relying on religious practices or the company of other believers. The sermon concludes with a reminder that the road to destruction is wide, but the way of life is narrow and requires repentance and surrender to God.

---

## Transcript

Tonight, every one of us is either a follower or not. If you are a follower, how far have you come along the way? It's interesting to see how Jesus says, I am the way, and no man cometh unto the Father but by me. And there, he brings into focus the unspeakable gift of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, without whom no one can find the way, no one can be reconciled to the Father.

Oh, how humanity has been seeking the wise. That's where our philosophers come from. And our schools of theology and psychology and biology and triology and phrenology and all these ologies, they're all efforts to find the way out of the labyrinth into which the human race has come.

You can never pick up a magazine of any description, but you'll find that searching going on. And now they'll follow Socrates and then they'll follow Plato and then they'll follow Confucius and then they'll follow Buddha and then they'll follow Freud and then they'll follow somebody. We're all in that labyrinth.

We're all going through this life. We're all coming to some goal very, very rapidly, very, very soon. Either the gate of heaven will open or the gate of damnation.

One or the other will be our goal. And when disciples came and said, Lord, are there many that are going to be saved? He said, strive. Labor again and again, we're told to labor.

We're told to work out our salvation. Why? Because the gate is narrow and straight and the way is narrow and it escapes attention. The broad way has many more companions.

If you walk on the broad way, that is the way of your own will, your own imagination or the flesh and the world and the devil. A lot of company. But if you walk on the one way, the only way, there's only one way that leads us on to life.

Thank God. Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way.

Not something he tells us alone. Not a religion, not a form of doctrine, not a sect, not a set of ideas and theologies, but a person. Oh, Jesus.

Jesus, thou art the way. Thou art the great leader. I was blessed by that song sung by the choir about following him.

Oh, that wonderful subject, following Jesus. You know, when you follow him, when he is your way, you can never, never stray to the heart of the Father. Glory to God.

You will never miss it. God says he beseeches you by Christ Jesus. Be ye reconciled to God, for he has made him to be sin for us, that we might be delivered from sin.

That's the narrow gate that many people miss, the gate of repentance. Oh, how many people miss it. They try to find another way.

A broad, a wide gate, a broad way, and theologians give them. You can find plenty churches where they tell you, come on along, there ain't plenty of them. But oh, the way of God.

Flee on the very day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost had come. He said, save yourselves from this untoward generation. Flee from the wrath to come.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. God is able to make of these rocks, sons of Abraham, don't say because you're religious, you're going to go to heaven. Oh, God so loved the world that he gave.

Here is the way, thank God. I thought I was safe, you know, and Jesus is the way. Jesus, a personal surrender.

I had to go alone, and yet not alone. There I found true companionship. I found him.

I found that in the morning when I had to leave house, leave father and mother, leave my home, he came with me. He came with me to the subway. He came with me to the elevator, rather, with me, talking to me, blessing me, anointing me.

Oh, the wonderful companionship. I found the scripture. It said somewhere in Psalm 109, Oh, I wanted to.

He speaks to me by him. And again, it must be a personal surrender. Personal.

I preached one time in a Bible school, and God gave us a gracious revival, and almost all of the students one night confessed that they had backslidden by coming into Bible school. They got interested in their

studies, in getting good marks, and they were not so much interested anymore because, beloved, it isn't preachers but followers. God wants followers.

Paul was a good preacher because he was a good follower. You will become a good follower. Power of God issues forth from him, like from the Son of Man.

Absolutely straight up and down. Do they know that they can trust you in any place and any condition? Oh, a follower of Jesus Christ will be faithful to the word of God. Wherewithal shall a young man find his way? How shall I find that way to my God, to my Father's house? How shall rabbi Jelegono Yalamo Zoloboge? There are so many leaders that call me aside, deceitful above all.

Only one way. He must become the ruler. The men go astray in their hearts, in their minds.

But wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word, and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto... That's it. Listen. Did you become a follower? Have you started following when you were a child the discussion centered or circled around conditions in Germany somewhere some time ago? The moral conditions.

It seems as if the Nazi philosophy has taken away the foundation from the German nation. Moral or immoral conditions are fearful. Absolutely fearful.

Unbelievably fearful. But on the other hand, there's a wonderful race ascending, coming up. Young men, young women, who live absolutely and positively for God.

I've met them. I've met them everywhere. And they're like shining lights.

They shine like the noonday sun in the darkness of Germany. Young men, young women, I've met them. I know how they live.

And my heart rejoiced. And almost in every instance, it's been people that have known the Scriptures from childhood days. They've had a good training at home.

Beloved, there's only one way. Thank God there is a way. God calls this world a wicked and adulterous generation.

But there's a way, thank God. Oh, Jesus, you are the way. And isn't it wonderful, as I say, it's Jesus.

He said to Peter when Peter said, What shall this be? How many people forsake the way because they stumble? When people tell you, Ah, so and so does it. They claim to be spiritual. They do it.

Listen, there's something wrong with you. If that's all the hunger you have for righteousness, if that's your standard, you'll certainly go astray. Let Jesus be your Savior.

Oh, how gracious is it of Jesus to make every one of us subject to himself, dependent upon himself. Everyone, no matter how many thousands travel with you, it must be an arrangement. Oh, Jesus says, Follow thou me.

And this morning we spoke of that Scripture text in Hebrews 13, where he tells us how we follow. What a great shepherd he's given to us. God who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep.

No man can live the 23rd Psalm until you're filled with the Holy Ghost. Beloved, God's provided for you to be filled with the Holy Ghost. Every one of us, sinners, those who crucify Jesus, he says the promise is unto you.

Repent, be baptized. That means take an oath of allegiance to Jesus Christ. Accept the gospel, and you shall receive the gift.

There's your shepherd. There's your guide. There's your monitor.

And he will not walk before you, but he will be with you. There will be that wonderful liberty of the freedom from sin. That marvelous Droh-re-kah-bah-hee-fal-do-go.

I like the German translation better. Wie Welch der Geist Gottes treibt. Have you ever seen a diesel engine in our crack trains? What power they develop.

There's a driving force on the inside that you can't see. It's invisible, but it drives that mighty train sometimes a hundred. And if the Holy Spirit is the driving force within you, you will experience something.

I tell you what, the exceeding greatness of his power to us were to believe. Hallelujah. Talk about power.

Jesus has power. Woo-ee-kah-rah-bah-hee-fal-do-go. And you were a sheep going astray, but are now an bishop of your souls.

That's conversion. It's a personal arrangement. When you open your heart and you say, Come in.

Salvation in every instance means that God comes into the heart. God himself comes into the soul. Has he not promised to do that? Yes, sir, he has.

He says, I'll put my spirit within you. I write my law upon your heart. Are you a follower? Oh, have you found the way? You're on the road.

But you may be on the road to destruction. The road that leads us to destruction. Many go in there at, he says, strive to enter in at the straight gate.

For many will try and shall not be able. Why? Because they're not honest toward God. They don't repent of their sins.

There's a very narrow gate and you can't take anything with you. Nothing. No sin.

Oh, praise the Lord, but the way is the way of life. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

We all like sheep had gone astray. Oh, how many have still gone astray. They're still roaming.

Still roaming. This is one thing we need to be careful about our children. We need to pray mightily that God will lead them through the narrow gate.

The fact that they're born into our families and the fact that they've had Sunday school training they also need to be born again. They've got to have an experience. And oh, how important it is that we who are gone astray like sheep are now returned.

Returned where? Not to church. No, thank God. But to the shepherd.

The shepherd. Oh, when you come to the shepherd first of all you're saved. Jesus.

Jesus Christ alone was able to lay down his life that his sheep might have life. That's the grace of God we sing about. Because he laid down his life that by his poverty we might be rich.

And so he has not only forgiveness of sins but the fullness of the Holy Ghost. I was glad that I had to go alone in those days because it taught me many lessons. I found out that God will come when you seek him with your whole heart.

When everybody's against you. They watched my room every night to see whether I stayed up too late. Then I got a calling down.

But you know when your heart's hungry for God you want to eat the bread of heaven. You can't be satisfied anymore. Oh, but I discovered that when you draw nigh to God, he does draw nigh to you.

Listen child, can you afford can you afford to be without this guy? One day young man, can you afford to be careless about it? How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation? Tell me. How shall we escape? People laugh. They fool like they did that night.

On the 14th of April 1915, I think no, 1912 when the Titanic, that great master ship the pride of the white star line was flying across the ocean on its maiden voyage and they had proclaimed to the nations that this was an unsinkable ship absolutely unsinkable and when the messages came across the ether danger ahead other ships lay at anchor they wouldn't move ahead the wireless operator said shut up we've got more important messages to send now why the titans were on board that ship John Jacob Astor, other great millionaires and by wire they were creating a panic right here in New York while they were sailing drawing millions out of each other's pockets, these great men of the earth older of the whites there's danger ahead he said, go ahead we're an unsinkable ship, the very joke of it he said and somebody had written across the belly of the ship we don't need God, this is an unsinkable ship, we don't need God and then a giant finger was drawn across the belly of the ship split open like the belly of a pig and the waves of the ocean pouring into it and the orchestra leader was given command by the captain keep them dancing, keep them dancing don't let them know that we're in danger, although the ship stopped although people were full of consternation and full of fear, like they are in the world today, what do they do, keep them dancing the church of the sacred heart is having a bingo party tomorrow night, keep them dancing Presbyterian bunch down there is having a baseball game keep them dancing go ahead, coffee clutch, keep them dancing, don't let them come to prayer meeting, don't let them cry to God day and night, don't let them get filled with the Holy Ghost, there's plenty time for that, we've got business we've got pleasure to attend to blitz, thunder hellfire damnation, where is your lust, where is your flesh where is your pleasure, where is your best

---

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/23/SID23002.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/hans-r-waldvogel/following-jesus-the-straight-gate/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**