

*“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).*

Volume 6

August 06, 2017

Number 32

## Roadblocks To Heaven

*John Isaac Edwards*

A roadblock is a barrier or barricade on a road to prevent access. I’m calling our attention to some hindrances that will keep folks from entering into the joy of the Lord.

### 1) *Disobedience.*

The Scriptures emphasize the necessity of obeying God. The first couple learned this as God said, “...thou shalt not eat...” (Gen. 2:16-17), they “did eat” (3:6), and were sent forth from the garden with Cherubims and a flaming sword keeping the way of the tree of life (Gen. 3:23-24). The keynote of Deuteronomy is obedience as Moses exhorted, “A blessing, if ye obey...And a curse, if ye will not obey...” (Dt. 11:27-28). Jesus taught, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). Revelation closes with the beatitude, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14). Access to heaven will only be granted to the obedient!

2) *Pride.* Matthew 18 finds the disciples thinking too highly of themselves. With a child in their midst He said, “...Except



ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom...” (Mt. 18:1-3). Wisdom literature reveals the Lord hates pride (Prov. 8:13), “A proud look” is an abomination unto him (Prov. 6:16-17), and “A man’s pride shall bring him low...” (Prov. 29:23). Some simply will not humble themselves so as to do what the Lord says!

### 3) *Earthly-Fleshly*

*Members.* Jesus taught His disciples to cut off and pluck out an offending hand, foot and eye saying, “...it is better for

thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet...two eyes... to be cast into hell fire” (Mt. 18:8-9). He is not teaching literal mutilation, but mortification. As Paul instructed, “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry” (Col. 3:5). Such must be put to death for, “...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).

4) *Riches.* Material possessions often get in the way of people’s following the Lord. Remember the rich, young ruler? The Lord told him, “...sell that thou hast, and give to the poor...and come and follow me”, “But ...he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions” (Mt. 19:16-22). Jesus used this occasion to explain, “...That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Mt. 19:23). We must not allow “the deceitfulness of riches” to “choke the word” (Mt. 13:22).

5) **Earthly Ties.** Cost of discipleship teaching demands, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple...likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (Lk. 14:26, 33). If we’re not careful we can allow our connections here to become a barrier to heaven! We must love the Lord more than these (Mt. 10:37).

6) **Unfaithfulness.** Who will hear the Lord say, “Well done,...enter thou into the joy of thy lord”? The “...good and

faithful servant...” (Mt. 25:21, 23). Heaven’s gates are open to the faithful! We are spiritual stewards and “...it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:2). The Lord promised, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Did you notice who will be rewarded with a crown of life? Those faithful unto death!

7) **Being Unready.** Matthew 25:1-12 is the story of 10 virgins: 5 wise and 5 foolish. The difference? Ready and unready! While the foolish, unready virgins went to buy oil for their lamps, “...the bridegroom came; and they that

were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut” (v. 10). They said, “Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered...I know you not” (v. 11-12). The application: “Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh” (v. 13). If this time finds you unready as an alien sinner, make the proper preparation by hearing (Mt. 17:5), believing (Jn. 8:24), repenting (Lk. 13:3), confessing (Mt. 10:32), being baptized (Acts 2:38) and being faithful (Rev. 2:10); or as an erring Christian by repenting and praying (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:9). Do it now! (2 Cor. 6:2).

## ***Soon Approaching:***

### **A Week Of Gospel Preaching — September 10-15!**

Sunday — Johnie Edwards (Plainfield, IN)

Monday — Curtis Carwile (Evansville, IN)

Tuesday — Chuck Bartlett (Newburgh, IN)

Wednesday — Curtis Cooper, Greencastle, IN)

Thursday — Jerome Sasanecki (Danville, IN)

Friday — Raymond Castillo (Burkesville, KY)

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

***Come be with us!***



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**