

THE WAY OF THE TRANSGRESSOR IS HARD

By Jerry L. Henderson

The word "transgress", according to Strong's Dictionary means to go contrary to or violate a command. Prov 13:15 says: "the way of transgressors is hard". Jhn 17:17 says God's word is true; therefore, we can be sure this statement is accurate. However, let's look at some other passages as well as observations and experience from life that give us further confirmation of this fact and then look at some reasons why the way of the transgressor is hard.

Notice with me the fact that Bible history confirms this fact stated in Prov 13:15. We don't have to look very far in Scripture to see this. Just look at Gen 3 & 4. Adam and Eve even before they were driven out of garden became ashamed and tried to hide from God. Man became hostile toward woman, Adam tried to blame Eve for his sin and they were driven out of the garden. Adam was made to earn his living by the sweat of his brow and Eve would have pain in childbirth. Ultimately, they came under the sentence of death. Then as you view Cain's life you see this principle demonstrated. He transgressed God's law and was punished. He said in Gen 4:13 "My punishment is greater than I can bear." The history of the Israelite nation demonstrates this time after time. When they served the Lord they prospered, when they turned from the Lord they suffered the consequences. As you look at the life of David you see this principle demonstrated. In 2Sam 11 and 12 is the record of his fornication with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband in his efforts to cover his sin. Even though he repented of these grievous sins he suffered the consequences throughout the rest of his life. Many other examples could be cited such as Ananias and Sapphira who lied about their gift and were struck dead immediately because of their sin as recorded in Acts 5.

From your own personal observation and experience you can confirm this principle. All around us we see evidence that shows the way of the transgressor is hard. This is not to say that evil men do not sometimes prosper and seem happy, but not truly. When one is a transgressor of law there is always that fear of retribution or punishment. Not only is the way of the transgressor hard but he may make hard the way of those associated with him. Just think of how many times you have seen this principle demonstrated over and over again

Now examine with me some reasons why the way of the transgressor is hard. It is hard because it is a way without God 2Jhn 9. Sin (iniquities) separates us from God according to Isa 59:2. Certainly we cannot afford to be separated from God, because as recorded in Acts 17:28 we have our very being in God. The way of the transgressor is a way without Christ. There is no living water Jhn 4:10; no bread of life Jhn 6:35; no light Jhn 8:12; no redemption Eph 1:7; no advocate before God 1Jhn 2:1 and it is without any spiritual blessings Eph 1:3. It is hard because of the heavy load of sin which one carries Heb 12:1. Not only the heavy burden of their own sins, but through their influence they are carrying others to destruction with them. Yet Christ will carry your burden of sin if you allow him to Matt 11:28-30. It is hard because of the characters that travel on this way. The filth of the earth walks this way. Would you want to spend the night on a road filled with all kinds of wicked and ungodly people? Yet when we transgress God's law we are choosing to walk among the basest of humanity. At the end of this way there is no rest, no relief. At the end of a journey it is pleasant to find rest, but there is no such place for

the transgressor Matt 25:46. However, there is a way where we can find rest Jer 6:16 and Christ is that way Jhn 14:6

Let's not be deceived by the appearance of the hard way. It appears to be smooth and pleasant but turns out to be hard and rugged. A way may seem right but it may very well not be right, it may be the way of the transgressor Prov 14:12. Why not enter the way that leads to life and rest Matt 7:13, 14, instead of the way of the transgressor that leads to eternal destruction. You have time in this life to make the choice to walk with the Lord in His way, have you made that choice, if not, then why not?