

7/11/11

Brothers and Sisters,

The last 3 line of the Robert Frost poem **“The Road Not Taken”** are familiar to most of us and are often quoted in motivational speeches and they seem to be used to promote some business opportunities that probably should be avoided. Here read them for yourself: **“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”** Clearly the words are about making the choice of following the crowd or moving down an unfamiliar path. Choosing which way to go is what life is all about. We make choices all day every day; some small like what to wear and some big like going to college or getting married. Who we are and who we become is often a result of the choices we make. For example if you are broke, it could be that you choose to spend more that you make. That by the way is the simple secret to becoming rich, spend less than you make. It is true for individuals as well as governments. (Don't get me started on our government) I wish I had known the secret 30 years ago, I guess that just proves the point about the choices we make.

Psalm 1 has only has 6 verses and it is about making choices; what advice to follow; which way to go; what to do and the resulting cause and effect. Here are verses 1-3: **Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.** (NIV) Many sermons have been preached about this text. Within these words you'll find good and evil; right and wrong; obedience and rebellion and ultimately life and death. It is clear that God's blessings come from following good advice.

Life shows us that the choices we make most often come as the result of advice we received from a parent, a teacher, a friend, someone we respect or someone in the know. Following the recommendation of someone led us to our faith or to join some Masonic Order. Even with these recommendations however, the choice is still our; to believe or not to believe; to follow or not to follow; to approach the east or stay outside the door. In **Matthew 7:13-14** we are faced with another choice of which path to follow, either the path that most people choose or the one that only a few find. **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it.** (NIV)

I believe Robert Frost spoke of this narrow road as the road less traveled and the Palmist describes it as someone who walks in counsel of God's Word. Robert Frost said it has made all the difference, the Palmist said it yields fruit and prosperity and in Matthew it says this path leads to life. Jesus said in **John 10:10 ...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** (NIV) Life to the full is found on this path. I am sure you have heard the saying that this is the 1st day of the rest of your life. **In the 1st degree Masons are taught to invoke God's blessing prior to a journey. That is good advice, so before you begin the journey of the rest of your life, ask God to bless your walk and to put you on the narrow path, the one that will make all the difference.**

If you are in Denver come to the 6:30 pm Sunday Night Service at the Robert Russell Eastern Star Chapel. We have a new video and sound system that was provided by some very generous Lodges.

Come and experience the Fellowship and the presence of Almighty God!

I pray God will bless you and yours,

Rev. Steve Schroeder PM

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PS: Please pass this on to your spouse and to those on your lists.