

# KIRBSTONES

## ALONG THE NARROW WAY

**curb-stone** (kûrb'stôn') - *noun* - one of the stones or a range of stones forming a curb, as along a sidewalk or roadway. Historically, the curbstones were placed vertically along the edges of the roadbed and the paving material was backfilled against the row of curbstones. The curbstones served <sup>(1)</sup>to hold the material in the roadbed, <sup>(2)</sup>to prevent the scattering of the material along the edges, and <sup>(3)</sup>to define the road itself from all the adjoining areas.

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT.

<sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT." - MATTHEW 7:13-14 - NIV

07.2025 | #267



**A**s we move through the rhythms of our daily lives—our worship, our service, and quiet moments—it is good for us to pause and ask: *Is what we are doing individually and as the church having a positive impact on our eternity?*

Scripture reminds us that our lives are not just measured by our earthly accomplishments, but by our continued faithfulness to Christ that will last beyond this life. Additionally, the ministries we support, the prayers we offer, and the relationships we nurture may seem small, but every one of these echo into eternity. Individually, our choices to forgive, to love, and to witness shape the character of our souls for the kingdom that is coming.

Corporately, as a church body, our unity, generosity, and worship become a living testimony to Christ in the world.

*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,  
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.  
2 Corinthians 4:18—NIV*

The second question—*When we are in the night of trial, must we think of tomorrow and the coming of our Lord?*—points to a profound truth. Trials can narrow our focus to pain, worry, and fear, but Scripture calls us to lift our eyes beyond today's darkness to the promise of Christ's return.

Jesus himself told his disciples that they would have trouble. He went on to tell them to take heart, and that he had come to overcome the world. Our hope is not in the removal of all earthly trials, but in the sure promise that our Lord will come again to make all things new.

Thinking of tomorrow in light of Christ's coming changes how we endure hardship right now. It reminds us that suffering is temporary, and glory is eternal. It also anchors us in hope that what feels overwhelming today will, in God's timing, give way to joy. Trials refine our faith, deepen dependence on God, and prepare us for eternity.

***16 In this world you  
will have trouble. But  
take heart! I have over-  
come the world.***

***John 16:33b—NIV***

*How, then, might we grow in wisdom, love, and maturity? Growth does not happen by accident. It flows from daily walks with God, rooted in Scripture, prayer, and the life of the church.*

*If any of you lacks wisdom,  
he should ask of God, who gives  
generously to all without finding  
fault, and it will be given him.  
James 1:5—NIV*

We grow wiser when we humbly admit our need and ask the Lord to shape our thoughts, decisions, and our attitudes according to his truth.

To grow in love, we must remember that love is not merely sentiment, but action. Jesus commands us to love one another, as he has loved us. His sacrificial love was patient and unconditional, and our growth in love often begins in the daily, sometimes unseen choices to serve, to forgive, and to speak kindly to others.

Maturity comes as we practice living out our faith consistently, both when life is bright and when it is shadowed by hardship. The mature believer is not the one who has never faced storms, but the one who, through storms, has learned to trust God more deeply and love others more generously.

As a congregation, let us encourage each other on this journey. Let us measure our ministries not only by attendance or activities, but by the eternal fruit each one will bear: (1) lives transformed, (2) faith strengthened, and (3) Jesus Christ glorified. Let us remind one another, in times of trouble, of the day when our Lord returns. Let us walk in prayer, in Scripture, and in fellowship, so that we might grow together in wisdom, love, and maturity.

May God bless each of us as we fix our eyes on eternity, grow in his grace, and serve faithfully today.

Copyright © - 2025  
Robert Wingfield Kirby III, D.Min.