“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

- Matthew 7:13-14

Dear Front Street Church,

The Christian philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard said, “Life must be lived forward but can only be understood backwards.” These words ring true especially for those of us who have journeyed beyond the midpoint of life. At some point you are suddenly made aware that you have been sold a short bill of goods. What you thought was really important becomes so much less important.

Soren Kierkegaard likes to tell the parable of the store where a thief broke in late at night when everyone was asleep. Now the thief didn’t take anything. He just went around changing the price tags on all the merchandise. The truly expensive items became really cheap and what was junk became very expensive. The next morning when the store opened people rushed in and spent all their money on what they later discovered was expensive junk.

According to Kierkegaard, this is a parable of life. We spend most of our life pursuing things that in the end aren’t really important, while neglecting the things that are, like our relationship with our neighbor and God. I guess there comes a season in all of our lives when this becomes most apparent. It’s usually near the end of life when we wish we would have spent more time with the ones we love and less time at work, or more time at worship and less time at worry.

A time always comes when we can’t avoid the questions life asks. We are traveling along doing just fine. We are walking along as did those two disciples on their way to Emmaus, when all of a sudden a stranger comes alongside and asks those soul-searching questions, “Where do you think you are going?” And, “What do you really expect to find at the end of the journey?” “For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it. But the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction…”

Of course, our world convinces us otherwise, and it often promises more than it ever delivers. It makes the wide gate seem quite attractive and many times it’s only at the end of life that we discover that the easy road we’ve been traveling is actually leading us to a place no one really wants to go.

Just something to think about as we decide whether to follow Jesus.

Still in One Peace

Pastor Ray