

## **OBSERVING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Psalm 16:11 ... "You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

A right-of-way is a piece of land that gives the public or persons with special permission, the right to pass. The National Highway passes through what was once private properties. Prior to construction of the highway, land owners were either paid for the loss of a small strip of their land on which the highway would be built, or they donated it. The same is true of most roads in the Philippines, but also pipelines, power lines, and irrigation ditches. You might also give a neighbor the right-of-way through your property so he can access his own property, which may be landlocked (a parcel in the middle of other private lands with no public road going to it).

In many instances on our national highway, plus provincial and barangay roads, people build homes and stores on the rights-of-way, which is illegal. Then when it comes time to pave or widen the road, the government must force those trespassers off the right-of-way so construction can proceed. And, when squatters build on the right-of-way, the government sometimes has to pay to relocate them. In fact, one of the most popular scams in this country is for squatters to build shacks on private and public lands to force the government or land owners to pay them to relocate. They are trespassers. They neither own nor have permission to build on someone else's property, but they believe that by doing so they can get the right to live there and make money when forced to relocate.

The way to heaven is strewn with squatters who believe they can get to heaven by simply building their lives on the right-of-way through life that God has provided for his followers. Many of these people attend church but do not accept Jesus as Lord. Some are decent people who believe they can cash-in on the benefits of heaven without following Christ; they just park on the side of the road to heaven and expect to be swept into heaven even if they did not earn that right.

Satan is a liar. He tells many people that they do not have to obey Christ or accept him as Lord and Savior, if they will just be kind or fair or work hard. So, those people sit near the narrow road that goes to heaven, expecting to be included without obeying Christ. Are you a trespasser on the road to heaven? Have you fallen for Satan's lie that you can get there just by sitting on the side of the road? You will be shocked to find that your shack on the right-of-way to heaven does not earn you a mansion in heaven, or eternity in the presence of God. You must either commit your life to Christ, or settle for a place in hell. It is your choice.

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