

THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW WAY

By Dr. Glenn Holzman



The roads of ancient Rome were an essential part of the development of the Roman Empire.

The Roman road network, nearly 50,000 miles of paved road, more than today's U.S. interstate highway system, was important both in maintaining the stability of the empire and for its expansion.

The Romans became skilled at constructing roads which they called viae. The viae differed from most other smaller or rougher roads, bridle-paths, drifts, and tracks of the time. New engineering techniques were developed that ensured the roads would need limited maintenance over a long period of time. Many of the roads still exist today. The essential component of the road construction was the paving stones: a course of heavy polygonal or square paving stones called the summa crusta. The careful placing of these stones ensured the stability of the road and its capability to accommodate heavy loads over hundreds of years of use.



Dr. Glenn Holzman
High School Principal



In a sense Cypress Christian School is laying out for its students, in partnership with its parents, a road built with the essential “summa crusta” of academic excellence and biblical values. We are paving the way for a life of godliness and righteousness. Academic excellence lays down the strong foundation of seeing God in all His creation through literature, mathematics, social studies, and science. Unlike government schools or secular private schools that teach for the acquisition of knowledge alone, Cypress Christian teaches for the acquisition of knowledge of who God is, what He has done, and what He will do. It is essentially the same knowledge that government schools teach but considered through the lens of a biblical worldview versus man’s view. This biblical foundation will provide stability to accommodate the “heavy loads” that students will face throughout their lives.

Roman road construction took a directional straightness. Romans preferred to engineer solutions over obstacles rather than circumvent them. In other words, the Romans knew where they were going and took the most direct route there. They did not let anything stand in their way. They did not compromise. As a Christian school, CCS maintains a “directional straightness” as well. We know where we are going and the course that is laid out to get there. It is our “directional straightness,” or steadfast adherence to biblical values, that keeps us on course, battling the influences of secular humanism and the secular culture that is constantly trying to change our course and the course of our students.

It is by laying down this course early for our students, based on academic excellence and biblical values that we hope they will, with biblical wisdom, be prepared to make the right choices when they reach the proverbial “forks in the road” throughout their lives. As it is with everyone, “small” decisions often determine the course of one’s entire life. Most people don’t realize that the outcome of their choices can be very great, but the consequences come all the same. They may not see it that way at the time, but looking back years later, it becomes evident that taking the wrong fork, or the godly fork, in the road has made all the difference.

As the poet Robert Frost said:

*I shall be telling of this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

(Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken,” in
Robert Frost’s Poems, New York:
Washington Square Press, 1971, p. 223)

In this day and age, it certainly appears that the Christian road of righteousness is the road less traveled. It is not a viae, or path, easily chosen or easily traveled, especially by our students, with all the opposing messages they get from the worldly culture surrounding them. Even so, it is our hope and mission at CCS, in partnership with its parents, to pave a way for our students, who with the mercy and grace of Jesus Christ, choose with courage and wisdom the life of righteousness described in Proverbs 4: (NASB)

12 *When you walk, your steps
will not be impeded;
And if you run, you will
not stumble.*

25 *Let your eyes look directly ahead
And let your gaze be fixed straight
in front of you.*

26 *Watch the path of your feet
And all your ways will
be established.*