

«Guide us to the straight path» that is, show us and help us to follow the straight path, which is the clear path that leads to Allah and to His paradise, which in turn means knowing the truth and acting upon it. (This is a prayer) for guidance to the straight path and guidance when following the path. Guidance to the straight path means adhering to the religion of Islam and forsaking all other religions; guidance when following the path includes guidance concerning all the details of religion, in knowledge and action. This supplication is one of the most concise, comprehensive and beneficial of supplications. Hence it is obligatory to call upon Allah with it in every *rak'ah* of the prayer, because we are in need of that.

This straight path is «The path of those whom You have blessed», namely the Prophets, *ṣiddeeqeen* (strong and true in faith), martyrs and righteous people.

«not» the path «of those who have incurred Your wrath» those who came to know the truth but drifted away from it, such as the Jews and others like them; and not the path «of those who have gone astray», those who drifted away from the truth because of ignorance and misguidance, such as the Christians and others like them.

Although this *soorah* is brief, it contains that which no other *soorah* of the Qur'an contains. It refers to the three types of *tawḥeed* (affirmation of the oneness of Allah). *Tawḥeed ar-ruboobiyah* (affirmation of the oneness of the divine Lordship) is seen in the verse «the Lord of the worlds». *Tawḥeed al-uloohiyah* (affirmation of the oneness of divinity), which refers to worshipping Allah alone, is seen in the phrases «Praise be to Allah» and «You [alone] we worship». *Tawḥeed al-asmâ' waṣ-ṣifât* (affirmation of the oneness of the divine names and attributes), which means affirming that the attributes of perfection belong to Allah (ﷻ) alone, which He ascribed to Himself and which His Messenger (ﷺ) affirmed, without denying