

Monday, May 5, 2003

OAK HILL  
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## “THE WAY”

**“JESUS said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the FATHER except through ME.”  
(John 14:6)**

**“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate  
and broad is the way that leads to destruction,  
and there are many who go in by it.  
Because narrow is the gate and  
difficult is the way which leads to life,  
and there are few who find it.”  
(Matthew 7:13,14)**

**“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is  
born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”  
(John 3:3)**

The only issue of importance for man is whether he spends eternity in heaven or in hell. The stakes could not be higher and the end result for each of us is forever irreversible. The way to escape hell and gain heaven is not easy. In fact “The Way” to heaven is difficult, and there are very few who will find it. God manifested Himself in the person of JESUS CHRIST (see John 14:9), and He spoke to us through JESUS (see John 14:10). JESUS brought to us the very Word of God that is able to save our souls.

**“Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you  
who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.”  
(Acts 13:26)**

**“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with  
meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”  
(James 1:21)**

Not only is JESUS CHRIST “The Way” and “The Only Way” that we might enter into eternal life with God, but His word cannot be separated from Him. JESUS and His word are one and the same and forever shall be.

**“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the  
glory as of the only begotten of the FATHER, full of grace and truth.”**

**(John 1: 1 & 14)**

Many today who call themselves believers and profess to be followers of JESUS CHRIST have separated Him from His word. They sincerely believe that what is recorded in the Bible, while it may have been His word, is not critical to their ultimate salvation. In other words, they feel that so long as they are believers in the reality of JESUS, they do not need to take His word literally and follow it to be saved. These would be believers have rejected the very words of the living God in favor of their own word, or the words of some other hell-bound man. James wrote the following words in chapter 2, verse 19: **“Even the demons believe (in God) and tremble!”** God’s word makes it abundantly clear that man must not only believe “in Him”, but he must also “believe Him”. There is a huge difference between “believing in” a person and “believing a person”. Many of us do not believe JESUS. I know this to be true because our actions confirm what we truly believe and not necessarily what we say. Words are cheap and mean nothing, unless there is a corresponding action that confirms what is said. Listen to JESUS —

**“Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works. For they say, and do not do.”**

**(Matthew 23:3)**

JESUS was speaking of the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:3. They said all of the right things. What they said agreed with the word of God. The only problem was that their hearts did not believe the word of God. They did not fear Him, nor did they tremble before His word. The end result was a man who “said” but who did not “do”. Simply put, they were hypocrites, and I must tell you that God’s word tells us that He hates! — He hates hypocrisy. Listen to the words of JESUS:

**“Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”**

**“All too well you reject the commandments of God, that you may keep your tradition.”**

**“Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”**

**(Mark 7: 6,7,9 & 13)**

While JESUS was addressing a specific problem in Mark 7, we see a spiritual principal here that applies to each of us today. When we honor God with our lips, while our hearts are far from Him, our worship of Him is in vain. Not only that, but His word is made, by us, of no effect. The result being that we become a people of form with no power, which is exactly what Paul prophesied would happen in the “last days”. (see 2 Timothy 3:5) The evidence is overwhelming for those who are in agreement with God’s living word — we are the generation of the last days. For the most part, our mouths say all the right things. We have established our traditions, and we have our good works to point to. We have established a different flavor of Christianity to satisfy the spiritual taste buds of all the people. We have built church buildings large and small on nearly every street corner across the land. We produce more Christian workers than ever before in the history of the church. We have established our own Christian radio and TV networks, as well as having produced CD’s, books, VCR tapes, etcetera, etcetera, in numbers which cannot be counted. We have printed more Bibles in this generation than ever before in the history of man. The words of our mouths declare that we are followers of JESUS. We proudly ask ourselves and others, “What would Jesus do”? Our religion has mushroomed into a world wide multi-billion dollar business.

And yet, in all of our religion, well intentioned as it may be, we have lost our way. We, like sheep, have gone astray. We have turned, every one, to his own way. (see Isaiah 53:6)

In all of our religion, we have lost our fear of a holy God. Rare indeed is the man or woman of God who trembles before His word. Form has now replaced power, and most of our religious activity is in vain. We have become lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. The level of identifiable sin in the church now matches that of the world, especially sins of the flesh. Fornication, adultery, unbridled lust, and the open flaunting of our sexuality is clearly seen by the world, even if we are blind to it. The voices of repentance, holiness, and righteousness have, for the most part, been silenced. In their place, we have voices of prosperity, grace, love and blessing, all designed to appeal to the weakness of man's flesh. Gone from the majority of those bearing the title of Christian are the traits of those JESUS said would enter the Kingdom of God. Gone from the majority are those who are poor in spirit. Gone from the majority are those who mourn over our present condition and the shame and reproach which we are bringing on His name. Gone from the majority are the meek of heart. Gone from the majority are those who's hearts hunger for holiness and righteousness. Gone from the majority are the pure in heart. Gone from the majority are the persecuted, especially in America, for having warned the people of the soon coming of a holy God. And yes, gone from the majority are the prophets and priests who boldly uncover the iniquity of the people. The vast majority of us are now spiritually drowning in our religion. May God have mercy and intervene on our behalf, before another wave of souls plunges into Hell from the sanctuary of the church.

Now lest you think the charges that I have leveled against the Christian community be that of a misinformed, misguided, spiritually deceived man, listen to Gene Edwards. As many of you know, Gene Edwards is a Christian historian of some note. Brother Edwards is also an author of many, many books calling believers to a deeper walk with JESUS. A few of his better known books are — “*Revolution, the Story of the Early Church*”, “*The Divine Romance*”, and “*A Tale of Three Kings*”. I have taken a few of brother Edwards quotes from his comments in the back of a book entitled: *Experiencing The Depths of Jesus Christ*” by Jeanne Guyon. You may obtain a copy of this book by contacting: **Seed Sowers, P.O. Box 285, Sargent, Georgia 30275** or on the worldwide web at [www.seedsowers.com](http://www.seedsowers.com). Now, listen to our brother.

*This era - the one you and I live in - has proven to be, unquestionably, the most Bible-centered age since the days of the Pharisees; it also rivals their age for being one of the least in emphasizing spiritual depth! And men today get just as disturbed as men of that former age did, when someone points out that fact.*

*By the time they are 35 years old, many ministers of the gospel have become some of the best promoters and fund raisers around.*

*This is an age of endless reams of books and papers on endless varieties of subjects, an age that produces men who deliver mind-boggling lectures on the doctrine of prayer and yet know little of its deeper experiences. Sophisticated, disdainful, sterile and passionless, we have wrenched from the hand of the 1700s the trophy for the most intellectual age in church history.*

*Those of us who are serving the Lord “full time” in this age should prepare ourselves for being remembered as a whole, as being the wealthiest, most commercial, sophisticated, worldly-minded,*

*materialistic and comfortable men in the whole history of religion.*

*From a purely historical viewpoint, we must be categorized as the most universally shallow believers ever to cross the pages of church history.*

*It is my studied judgment that some future generation will deem this to be the darkest Century, in spiritual depth and spiritual experience, in church history - that is, unless something very radical happens along --- soon.*

*More corrupt than the dark days before Luther; more impotently intellectual than during the heyday of Calvinism; more financially perverted than the days that caused John the Baptist to explode; more intoxicated with the drive for spiritual power than any age, yet exercising that outward power with less internal transformation than anyone since King Saul; enamored with the gifts, yet hardly knowing the Giver, our age has produced the most commercial, materialistic, fad-oriented people ever to claim His name.*

*Is this assessment a little too harsh? I would respond to you by pointing to one last trophy this age may win: We seem to be more totally blind to the deprivation of our spiritual depth than all other centuries lumped together.”*

Gene Edwards is not the only man of note who has come to this conclusion, that we have lost our way. Billy Graham is quoted as having said that he would not be surprised to find out that up to 90-95% of those professing JESUS CHRIST, and in the church, are in fact, lost. Can you imagine the horror of living a lifetime, being part of what we call the church, believing you were saved, and then dieing and waking up in hell? Can you imagine the horror of realizing that it is eternally too late to listen to and obey JESUS. We cannot say that our God has not warned us. The Apostle Paul spoke plainly when he said:

**“Workout your own salvation with fear and trembling;”  
(Philippians 2:12)**

The writer of Hebrews also warned us.

**“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:”  
“let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably  
with reverence and Godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”  
(Hebrews 12:14, 28 & 29)**

Then JESUS identified those of us who truly loved Him when He said:

**“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and  
We will come to him and make Our home with him.  
He who does not love Me does not keep My word;”  
(John 14:23,24)**

The Apostle John also warned us of the importance of following JESUS and keeping His word. Listen —

**“Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His Commandments.  
He who says, “I know Him”, and does not keep His  
commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.  
But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.  
By this we know that we are in Him.”**

**(1 John 2: 3 - 5)**

My brothers and sisters please hear this - There is no salvation apart from a heart that desires to obey our God! A heart of disobedience will land you in the eternal fires of hell regardless of who you are. I am not talking about living a perfect life. I am not talking about legalism and living under the bondage of law. No ! No! No! I am talking about obeying God out of a love for Him and a reverential fear of Him as God. Not your buddy, your pal, your lover - but your God. If the commandments, precepts and judgements, the law of God, is not written on your heart, you are yet unconverted. You are not “born again” regardless of what some man has told you. Listen to the word of God.

**“ But this is the covenant that I will make with  
the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:  
I will put My law in their minds,  
and write it on their hearts; and  
I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”**

**(Jeremiah 31:33)**

The promise of this new Covenant that God gave us was sealed by the blood of JESUS CHRIST and accomplished in us by the Holy Spirit of God through spiritual rebirth. This covenant that Jeremiah spoke about was recorded in Hebrews chapter 8, verse 7 through 13. What we could not do in our flesh, our God did supernaturally by His Spirit. He literally gave us a love of His law, and even though we have not yet attained perfection, never the less our heart beats “Yes and Amen” to the commandments of The Way, JESUS CHRIST. You see JESUS CHRIST is the law of God and His law will rule in heaven. Make no mistake about it my friend, if you are offended by the law, the commandments, precepts and judgements of God, you have not been soundly converted. If that be your case, I urge you to turn to your heavenly Father, repent and ask Him to circumcise the foreskin of your heart. (see Deuteronomy 10:16) Purpose in your heart to follow JESUS as the only way into heaven. Soak in His word, it will be life to you. I suggest that we camp out in Matthew chapter 5, 6, and 7 - the Sermon on the Mount, until His word becomes a part of our being. Then go to the entire book of John and allow JESUS to reveal Himself to you and prepare you to become His friend and one of His trusted disciples. He does not expect you to be perfect until He makes you perfect. He only expects you to have a willing heart - that’s all. Just a willing heart!

My brothers and sisters, I must tell you the truth. Your potential in JESUS CHRIST far exceeds your present experience. You are unique and have as much potential in Him as any other living man or woman. Separate yourself to Him. Stop running to and fro in your attempt to be busy for Him. Stop following some man and turn to JESUS as your only way to heaven. Stop looking to your church or your denomination as the source of Truth. Only JESUS is the Truth. Turn away and flee, as if your life depended upon it - and it does - from any person who does not call you to repentance and a walk of holiness and righteousness. Especially flee from a voice that preaches grace and leads you into a walk of disobedience to the commandments of the living God. That is the voice of Lucifer. The same voice that Eve heard in the garden. Never forget the command of our Lord, as He gave the great commission that is

recorded in Matthew 28:20. Listen -

**“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;”**

I believe that the reason the church today is in such a dark spiritual state is due to our having adopted and taught a “cheap grace theology”. Simply put, we have failed to teach obedience and the Priest and Prophet have failed to uncover our iniquity. In our deception, we sincerely believe that all is well, that God no longer requires obedience to Him, and that in the end, we Christians will all go to heaven and live happily ever after. We believe that we have found another way, other than The Way. And to make matters worse, we have tacked the name of Christ over the door of deception. May God have mercy on us.

I conclude this message by sharing a word that I received by the Spirit of God on the morning of May 3, 2003.

Life for the true sons of God is not about “doing”, but rather about “being”. It is about being “perfected” in Him. As we are “perfected” He moves through us and something supernatural, heavenly and totally spiritual happens. Heaven - the Kingdom of God comes near to man. The lost are found, those held in bondage are set free, the sick are healed and the dead are raised!

Time is short for our generation. The call is clear and easily understood for those who have ears to hear. JESUS CHRIST cries out from heaven - “Follow Me”! - For I AM The Way! The only Way!

God Bless

Tom