

# The Old Paths

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## “The Lord’s Doing”

Jarrold Jacobs

**D**avid wrote, “*The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD’S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*” (Ps. 118:22-24). In context, we see that Psalm 118:22-24 has reference to one event. That is the event of Christ being made “*head stone of the corner.*” Christ being made “*head stone of the corner*” was “*the Lord’s doing,*” and not man’s! Not only this, but “*it is marvellous in our eyes.*” It is such because it was marvellous for people to comprehend; to watch the unfolding of God’s plan. It is marvellous because no man could bring about what God has done.

Seeing these things are true, we will “*rejoice and be glad*” in the work of the Lord! Of course, we see the fulfillment of this prophecy in Christ when we study the New Testament. In our studies, we see that the apostles applied Psalm 118:22-24 to Christ. Peter did this in Acts 4:10-12. Paul referred to our Lord as “*the chief cornerstone*” (Eph. 2:20). Peter quotes David again on the occasion of writing “*to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia*” and applies Psalm 118 to our Lord (I Pet. 2:7).

Christ occupying this place of power and authority was “*the Lord’s doing*” and not man’s! God had every right to place Christ in this position, and He occupies this position of authority even today (Matt. 28:18; I Tim. 6:15).

Friends, this is not the only thing that would qualify as “*the Lord’s doing.*” Our Father has done many things for us!

### Creation

The Creation of the universe was “*the Lord’s doing.*” “*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*” (Gen. 1:1). From here, we learn of God’s creation of both the inanimate, and animate world in 6 short days (Ex. 20:11, 31:17)! We are not here by accident. God created us, and He loves us (Rev. 4:11). God has brought all things visible and invisible (Rom. 1:20) into existence, and truly “*it is marvellous in our eyes.*”

### Marriage

Not only is the creation of the universe “*the Lord’s doing,*” but also the marriage relationship was created by God. Marriage is not a product of western thought, but has been practiced since the beginning when “*God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man*” (Gen. 2:21-22). From that point until today, God’s plan is that one man and one woman live together as husband and wife until their death (Matt. 19:4-6). Yes, marriage is only for this life (Matt. 22:30), but it is a relationship we need to respect because it is “*the Lord’s doing.*” One vows a vow before God and man to live with this mate “*till death do we part*” and this must to be obeyed (Ecc. 5:2, 4-6).

### The Church

The establishment and work of the church is also “*the Lord’s doing.*” Yes,

there are many man-made organizations calling themselves “*churches,*” but the Bible says there is only one church the Lord recognizes — His (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18, 24)! The Lord’s church was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). It was built by Christ (Matt. 16:18). It is composed of the saved, whom the Lord adds to the church (Acts 2:47). The Lord’s church lives by the words of Christ (I Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17). The Lord’s church is composed of individual Christians (Ex: When Paul persecuted “*the church,*” he was persecuting “*men and women,*” Acts 8:3). While there is no organization of the Lord’s church in a world-wide scope, we see that when Christians in a certain locality meet to work and worship the Lord, God has ordained that they be organized. Each local congregation is to have elders overseeing the flock, deacons serving, as well as the members of that local congregation (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9). The local congregations meet to worship the Lord through prayers, songs, teaching, partaking of the Lord’s Supper, and giving of our means “*as we have been prospered*” (Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2). The beauty of this can be seen by all, for this is “*the Lord’s doing,*” and not the scheme of man!

### The Plan Of Salvation

The plan for man’s salvation is also “*the Lord’s doing.*” No man could figure out a way to be saved from his sins. Yet, God has told us what to do. When we believe that Christ is the son of God, repent of our sins, confess Christ before men as God’s son, and be baptized for the remission of sins, we can be saved (Rom. 10:17; Lk. 13:3; Matt. 10:32; Acts 2:36-38). We need not fight against this plan, but respect it and obey it (Heb. 5:8-9).

### Conclusion

Have you learned to respect that which is “*the Lord’s doing,*” dear friend? We must if we wish to see Heaven! What God has done “*is marvellous in our eyes.*”

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk

## *Debates Do Harm*

Jimmy Thomas

“**D**ebates do more harm than good.” That’s what we hear on every hand. People in the church say it. But is it true? Well, yes in a certain sense it is.

Debates DO HARM to false teaching. A false doctrine may thrive and grow alone, but under the glaring light of truth it will wither away. No wonder false teachers soon decide that they don’t believe in debating. Their doctrine can’t take it.

Debates DO HARM to indifferent, compromising church members. Debates make them feel uncomfortable with their relatives, friends and neighbors who are in error. They must either stand up for truth or sink further back into spiritual stupor. No wonder weak, unconverted church members are always the first to oppose debating.

Debates DO HARM to lazy preachers. If a man knows that he must be ready to defend what he preaches on the polemic platform, then he will study more to make sure he is right. The preacher who has never prepared for a public debate doesn’t know what real study is. I can easily see why many preachers say that debates do harm. They are afraid someone will challenge them, and they are not willing to accept.

Debates DO HARM to one’s popularity. The quickest way to become unpopular with the masses (even with many in the church) is to debate. It is not popular anymore to have convictions and stand up for them.

Some may say, “But I do know of debates that have done harm. Why, some of the people got mad, and the debaters got mad too. They attacked each other rather than the issue.” This, my friend, is not debating, at least, not honorable debating. “Well, since some are like this, I don’t think any debate is good.” Some sermons are bad. The preacher gets mad, and some of those who hear get angry also. Should we do away with sermons because of that? Those who debated Stephen became so angry that they stoned him to death, (Acts 7), but this did not stop other disciples from preaching and debating.

Debates DO GOOD. Down through the years many have been turned from darkness to light, from error to truth, through debates. False teachers know this -- even those in the church. That is why it is almost impossible to get them to debate.

Truth has no fear of open, fair examination. It will shine forth more brightly under the searching light of honorable controversy. Those who love truth and seek after it, welcome discussion -- either private or public -- of what they believe. If there is any error, any inconsistency, in what they believe, teach and practice, they want to know it. Debates will bring it to the surface. Every honest person will skim off the error and cleave to the pure truth.

### Editor’s Note:

I wholeheartedly say “Amen” to the words of brother Thomas. Having engaged in debates myself, both public and private, it is evident to me that not only will debates do good from the standpoint of shining the light of truth on error, but it is also the BIBLE WAY to contend with error. How can we know this? Let us notice a few Scriptures together and see.

1) Jesus debated people. One such example is found in Luke 13:10-17, where we find two disputants (v. 10, 14), an audience (v. 17), gathered in a public place (v. 10), wherein they debated whether or not it was right to perform miracles on the Sabbath (v. 14). Not only here, but in Matthew 21-22 we read of Christ’s debates with the chief priests and elders (21:23-27), the Pharisees (21:15-22), Sadducees (21:23-33), and a lawyer (22:34-40).

2) The apostles debated people. We read of such times in Acts 4-5, not to mention the record of Paul’s 2 solid years of debating in Ephesus (Acts 19:9).

3) Debating was encouraged by the apostles Read II Corinthians 10:4-5; Jude 3; I Peter 3:15 and see if this is so.

Whether one engages in a “public” debate, or talks with neighbors “across the fence,” may we have the knowledge of God’s word and the conviction to lead lost souls to the Lord while we can. (II Cor. 6:2)

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