

# The Old Paths

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## “God Doesn’t Look At Things Like We Do”

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The above may seem obvious to some, but I would suggest that many do not understand that God does not look at things like men do. In I Samuel 16:1-13, we find that the one God chose to reign in Saul’s place, and the one Samuel thought ought to reign were two different people! When Samuel was sent to anoint the new king, it wasn’t Eliab (v. 6-7), nor Abinadab (v. 8), nor Shammah (v. 9-10)! God had chosen David, the youngest son of Jesse as king (v. 11).

Was there anything necessarily wrong with the other sons? Not from a physical standpoint, perhaps (v. 7), but God was not looking upon mere appearances, but upon the heart (v. 7)! In this case, He chose David to ascend the throne and rule Israel.

We need to appreciate the fact that God is not a man, nor the son of a man. He is not flesh and blood (Jn. 4:24). He does not dwell in finite dwellings (Acts 17:24). He is wiser than the wisest man (I Cor. 1:25; Rom. 11:33-36). Therefore, He does not see things, nor do things as men would! “For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves” (Job 34:21-22). When we understand this, we

will not want to fight against the commands of God, but will lovingly do them, knowing that they are for our benefit, and have been given to us by an all-powerful, all-wise, holy God!

Let us consider some areas in which God does not see things like men do, and then let us acquire the attitude of God.

### ***God Does Not See Sin As Men Do.***

Many treat sin as some kind of joke (Prov. 14:9). Sometimes, men ignore sin as if it were a non-existent thing. Or, as something that is only reserved for “bad” things. (Ex: murder, incest, adultery) Some see sin as such a heinous thing that one can pass his sins on to his children.

How does God see sin? God defines sin as a transgression of His law (I Jn. 3:4). It is also an omission of God’s law (Jas. 4:17). Any sin of which one may be guilty results in the same thing -- death (Jas. 1:14-15; Rom. 6:23). God calls sin a stain (Isa. 1:18). He also calls it a master (Jn. 8:34). At the same time, sin is the responsibility of the individual, and cannot be passed on to others (Ezek. 18:4; Col. 3:25).

Sin is such an awful thing that He sent His Son to die that men might have the remission (forgiveness) of sins (Matt. 20:28, 26:26-28; Heb. 2:9; I Tim. 1:15; Jn. 3:16). Knowing what God thinks of

sin, we need to flee from evil desires and temptations which can bring about sin (II Tim. 2:22; I Pet. 2:11).

### ***God Does Not See His Church As Men Do.***

A popular saying these days is, “Choose the church of your choice.” Others say they do not believe in “organized religion,” but in a “personal experience.” In other words, they determine what is right based upon what they feel. Some say that all religions are correct and have something to offer. I remember watching one so-called “preacher” on TV say he was thankful to God for all the denominations in this world.

Even among our brethren, some have taken down their sign that says “church of Christ” and put up nothing, or “Christians meet here,” or “Christian Fellowship,” or etc. What does God think about this? How does He view the church?

God views the church as precious and valuable because it was purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28). God views the church as the relationship where the saved are added (Acts 2:47). The church is the “pillar and ground of the truth” (I Tim. 3:15). It is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4). God views the church as a soul-saving institution (I Thess. 1:7-8). When we consider the church the way God does, perhaps we’ll have a better appreciation for her! When we do, perhaps we’ll see why we are missed so much when we forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25).

In addition to this, when we see the church the way God sees her, we’ll see

the necessity for doctrinal purity (Titus 2:1, 8), and the need for DEMANDING (not merely tolerating) that sound doctrine be preached, both “publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20).

When we see the church the way God sees her, we’ll appreciate the comfort and togetherness which is provided in the church (Heb. 10:22-24). We’re brothers and sisters together in Christ (Rom. 8:16-17), and this ought to draw us closer together, seeing that we are fighting a war with the world. When we see the church the way God sees her, we’ll see how important it is to keep the church (ourselves) pure (I Tim. 5:22; I Cor. 5:7; II Thess. 3:6). This is why local congregations need to be scripturally organized that we might be what God wants us to be (Phil. 1:1; I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9). This is what God sees. What do we see??

### ***God Does Not See Life In General As Men Do.***

Many men look at life as a time to “live it up!” Some give the advice to “Grab all the gusto you can!” As an example of how common this attitude is, a while back, I saw a T-shirt which had written on it: “The one who dies with the most toys, wins.” Short-sighted men think that one can do everything he/she wants to, and then, at a later time, settle down and maybe choose your own church, or whatever you wish to do. This is a great and grave mistake!

There are those who think of life as a continual recycling (reincarnation), and therefore, once you die, you’ll come back as something else, and correct past mistakes, until one day you

get all your mistakes corrected, and then you can move on. This contradicts such plain passages of Scripture as Hebrews 9:27.

Some, on the other hand, do not consider life a gift or precious at all, and advocate taking the lives of unborn babies, old people, the terminally ill, and others. This kind of thinking results in no respect for God’s gift of life. How does God see life on this earth? Let us contrast how God looks at life with how men look at life, and let us change to conform to the will of God.

God sees life as a time of preparation for eternity. Solomon said the “whole duty of man” is to “fear God and keep his commandments” (Ecc. 12:13-14). It is temporary, and brief at its longest (Ps. 90:9-10; I Jn. 2:17). Life must be a time of moral purity. Paul told Timothy to “keep thyself pure” (I Tim. 5:22). Later, he would tell Timothy to flee such things as teaching false things, pride, perverse disputings, corrupt minds, covetousness and youthful lusts (I Tim. 6:3-11; II Tim. 2:22). The Corinthians were told to “flee fornication” and idolatry (I Cor. 6:18, 10:14). This is necessary in order to be morally pure in the sight of God.

God looks at this earth-life as a

time of getting your priorities straight. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). It is a time of living as a Christian (Rev. 2:10), and a time of happiness and wholesome fun (Ecc. 11:9-10; Phil. 4:4). In addition to this, it is this earth-life that God views as a time for marriage, and family (Matt. 19:4-6, 22:30; Eph. 5:22-6:4; Heb. 13:4).

When we look at things through God’s eyes, we see it in a whole new way, don’t we? Let us not waste our life, but let us live it in the best way by being His child. Let us have the mind of our Lord, and live in a way that pleases Him so that we might see Heaven one day!

### **Some Spiritual Thoughts**

- ◆ No matter how often we may be told a thing, some things we can learn only in the school of affliction.
- ◆ Our present method of evangelism may develop a few strong men and women, but a strong church is dependant upon a body of strong members, not just a few isolated ones who become strong.

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