

The Old Paths

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“Come And See”

Jarrold Jacobs

John 1:45-46 records the occasion when Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” At that time, Nathanael asked, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip answered, “Come and see.”

Throughout the Scripture, this principle is seen as folks were continually encouraged to investigate, “see,” and learn about God and His word. God does nothing in a “corner,” but encourages people to come and “test,” “examine,” and “learn” all about Him. In the case of Philip and Nathanael’s discussion, Jesus was glad when Nathanael came to Him, stating, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” (Jn. 1:47).

The truth does not fear honest, open investigation. In fact, Jesus said on another occasion, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30). Take note of those words, “come,” “take,” “learn,” and “find.” Christ was encouraging people to take action! He wanted them to make sure and prove to themselves what the truth is. A similar thing was said by the

apostle Paul when he wrote, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). The word “prove” suggests that one is proving to himself what the truth is. To the Thessalonians, he said, “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thess. 5:21). In other words, “come and see”!

Perhaps the greatest example of one who “tried it all” was a man named Solomon. He wrote about this experience and concluded that all of one’s duty is summed up in the sentence: “Fear God and keep His commandments” (Ecc. 12:13).

We have nothing to hide in our work and worship to God. In fact, we encourage people to investigate, study, and ask questions. This is the best way people can learn. When we talk to folks about the Lord’s church here at Southside, let us encourage them to “come and see”....

A People Committed To Doing What The Bible Says.

The Bible says, “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (I Pet. 4:11). We are committed to simply speak and act as the Bible says. Paul taught, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Col. 3:17). Seeing that this is the case, we are committed to simply learning and following what the Bible says! In a world that

says there are no standards, that truth is “relative,” and that no one has the right to “condemn” the sinful actions of others, we need to get back to what God has said, respect His will, and live by it!

A People Committed To Worship God In Harmony With New Testament Worship.

Jesus told the woman He met at the well, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (Jn. 4:24). In other words, no worship is accepted with God that is not “in spirit and in truth.” Therefore, our worship needs to be structured in that way, worshipping God in connection with the spirit and with the truth! Specifically, we see New Testament Christians worshipping God through preaching, prayers, singing, taking the Lord’s Supper, and giving (Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; I Cor. 11:23-28; Eph. 5:19). When we gather on the Lord’s day, we follow this example in worship.

Why do we worship God in this way? It is because we have accepted the Lord’s invitation to investigation and have learned what He wants. Now, in following Christ’s example, we need to encourage folks to investigate, to “come and see” what the truth is.

Conclusion

I am convinced that many of today’s problems in the religious world stem from folks who teach something and then leave the impression that they are all-knowing, and above being questioned. Shame on folks who are like that. Jesus Christ encouraged investigation; righteous people told others “come and see”; and we must encourage folks to learn of Christ and be saved today!

Sin's Blinding Touch

Anonymous

PRIDE touched Naaman, the Syrian general, and made him revolt at Elisha's command to dip seven times in Jordan (II Kings 5:11-12).

SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS touched the Pharisee and blinded him to his own corruption and the publican's virtues (Lk. 11:12).

WORLDLY AMBITIONS touched the eyes of the young ruler and blacked out the possibility of an eternal crown (Lk. 18:23).

LOVE OF THIS PRESENT WORLD touched the heart of Demas and led him away from Paul and a faithful life (II Tim. 4:10).

COVETOUSNESS touched Balaam and blinded him to the tragedy of loving the wages of unrighteousness (II Pet. 2:15).

SELF-WILL touched the vision of Saul and blinded him to the practice and consequence of presumption (I Sam. 15:22).

ENTICEMENT OF WOMEN finally put out Samson's eyes and sent him to grind in a Philistine mill (Judges 16).

HUMAN TRADITIONS blinded Jerusalem so that she could not see her Christ (Mk. 7:7-9).

Beware!!!

'Beware, brethren, lest there

be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb. 3:12, 13).

Editor's Note:

The author is not named in the above article, but he has done a fine job in describing the harmful effects of sin in the lives of people. Let us remember that sin is not a "joke," "cute," or "harmless." The Holy Spirit inspired Solomon to write, "Fools make a mock at sin..." (Prov. 14:9). This is the truth! Look again at the people listed above and see how their lives were harmed by sin. Not only is this the case, but look at folks today who are devastated by sin on a daily basis!

The sad part is that many of those who are in midst of sin are so blinded to it, that they don't know they are even in danger! How we need to wake up to the danger of sin, get our lives right with God, and then labor to help others who are in sin (Matt. 7:5).

Let us never become callous and unfeeling to sin and its consequences. Sin blinds people to the spiritual reality around them, for sin results in spiritual death (Ezek. 18:4, 20; Jas. 1:14-15). Sin truly destroys people, and we need to make sure that we are not blinded by the devices of Satan. Yes, "beware"!!

A New Tool To Win Souls From Satan's Kingdom

Jarrod Jacobs

December 18, 2005 saw the television debut of "The Ancient Landmark"; a television show dedicated to putting God back in His place as Supreme, and bringing lost souls to Him. Lord willing, this coming Wednesday night another episode of our televised Bible teaching will air on channel 52.

I am so thankful that we can take advantage of such opportunities. This is but one more way to spread the gospel! The New Testament continually stresses the fact that the gospel is to be taught (II Tim. 2:2; Mk.16:15; Acts 8:4; etc.). When folks learn the truth, they can be saved, and transplanted from Satan's kingdom to God's (Rom. 1:16; Col. 1:13). Therefore, this television work is added to our efforts in public teaching, personal Bible studies, our radio program, bulletin, and website, as ways to spread the gospel in Owensboro, and abroad. (Just like I Thessalonians 1:8!)

To those who have already expressed encouraging words in this work, thank you! To everyone, please watch the program, pray for this added work, and tell your friends to tune in.

"Let The Bible Speak"

www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church at Southside.

Our address: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Bible Study _____ 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship _____ 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship _____ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study _____ 7:00 p.m.

"What Is Written": Sunday (12:30 p.m.) on 94.7 & 100.5 FM.

Call: 683-9246 (WBIO) with your Bible questions.

"The Ancient Landmark": Wednesday (5 p.m. & 9 p.m.) on channel 52.

Website: www.southside-churchofchrist.com (Updated weekly!)

Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs Elders: Paul Dubois & Jeff Lankford

Phone: (270) 683-5386