

# The Old Paths

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## “If These Men Understand, Why Can’t We?”

Jarrod Jacobs

*Christ’s name last forever” (Spurgeon Memorial Library, Vol. I, p. 168).*

**T**his article will be a little different than most articles that have been written in this bulletin. This is because I am going to cite the words of four well-known men. The purpose of this is to make a point that the religious world seems to have overlooked. Using these quotes does not mean that these men were infallible, or that they were inspired of God. What it means is that we **can** understand the Bible alike, and that we will all speak the same thing (I Cor. 1:10) when we simply follow the Bible (I Pet. 4:11). Please consider the following:

### Baptism Saves Us:

#### **John Calvin (Presbyterian):**

*“For he commands all who believe to be baptized for the remission of their sins. Therefore, those who have imagined that baptism is nothing more than a mark or sign by which we profess our religion before men, as soldiers wear the insignia of their sovereign as a mark of their profession, have not considered that which was the principal thing in baptism; which is, that we ought to receive it with this promise, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” — Mark 16:16” (“Institute,” Book IV, chapter 13).*

### The Lord’s Supper:

**John Wesley (Methodist):** *“I also advise the elders to administer the Supper of the Lord on every*

*Lord’s Day” (“Letters to America,” 1784).*

### Wearing Religious Names Other Than “Christian”:

**Martin Luther:** *“I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for any one. St. Paul (I Cor. 1:13) would not have any should call themselves of Paul or of Peter, but of Christ. How, then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of Christ? Cease, my dear friends to cling to these party names and distinctions; away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes” (Life of Luther, By Stork, p. 289).*

#### **John Wesley (Methodist):**

*“Would to God that all party names and un-Scriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of the common Master to hear His Word, imbibe His spirit and to transcribe His life in our own.” He also wished that “the very name (Methodist) might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion” (Universal Knowledge, Vol. IX, p. 540).*

**C.H. Spurgeon (Baptist):** *“I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let*

There are other quotes we could cite as well, but these are enough to show us that these men had a clear understanding of such passages as Mark 16:16; Acts 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Peter 3:21; I Peter 4:16 and other similar passages. It also shows us that **we** can have the same knowledge and understanding if we will but study God’s word and apply it (II Tim. 2:15).

The question remains that if these men (who were either the founders, or extremely prominent in the various denominations that exist today) could understand God’s word concerning these issues, why can’t people today understand God’s word, too? The truth is that they (and we) can understand God’s word alike (Eph. 3:4, 5:17). Perhaps the problem was best summed up when Christ said, *“By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them”* (Matt. 13:14-15; also Acts 26:27-28; Isa. 6:9).

It has been rightly said “It doesn’t matter what you know, but how you feel about it!” How do **you** feel about God’s word? It will judge us one day (Jn. 12:48). Are you ready for the Judgment day? Are you willing to take God at His word, follow His will and simply be a Christian (Jn. 14:15, 15:14; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 11:26; II Jn. 9)?

*“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jer. 6:16)*

# Condemning The World

Jarrold Jacobs

**H**ow many times have we heard people say words to the effect, "If you tell me that there is only one way to Heaven, then you are condemning me (or "my family," "others," etc.)." Is this a valid charge?

Friends, when one takes a stand for the truth, he will be condemning those who are not following the truth. Please read Hebrews 11:7. *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."* When Noah built the ark, following God's plan to the letter (Gen. 6:22), the Bible says he condemned the world. How did Noah do this? He condemned the world in three ways:

1) **He condemned the world by living by faith** (Heb. 11:7). God told Noah what to do and he did it without question (Rom. 10:17; Gen. 6:22). His family followed his lead (I Pet. 3:20). The rest of the world refused to listen to God (through the preaching of Noah, II Pet. 2:5) and drowned in the Flood. Notice that this verse begins and ends stating that Noah lived *"by faith"* (Heb. 11:7).

2) **He condemned the world by heeding the warnings of God** (Gen. 6:13). Again, when the people heard Noah's preaching, they refused to follow God's will and get into the ark. When Noah was warned of *"things not seen as yet,"* he heeded the warning. In like manner, we are warned by God of an eternity in Hell for our

disbelief and disobedience. Are we heeding the warning of the Lord who has said He will come *"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (II Thess. 1:6-9)?

3) **He condemned the world by preparing for the coming flood.** Noah's preparation of the ark showed that he not only believed in God, but believed God. Those who have faith in God will do what He says to do (Rom. 10:16). Noah prepared for the Flood and condemned a world of fools (Matt. 25:1-13). In Matthew 25:1-13, we see where those prepared were rewarded and those who refused to prepare were condemned.

Did Noah talk down or act rude to the people? Of course, not! Nevertheless, he condemned the world at that time because he followed God and had the backbone to stand for his convictions and preach God's word to others. He did God's will regardless of the consequences to himself or his family. There are too few people like this today. Let us stand behind God's will and have the backbone that was characteristic of Noah! Have we complained that someone was "condemning" us? Perhaps it was because they were doing God's will, and we were not! Let us repent while we have time (Lk. 13:3; II Cor. 6:2).

## "Some Thoughts On Diotrephes"

Jarrold Jacobs

**J**ohn said, *"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church"* (III Jn. 9-10).

After reading those verses, consider this: 1) Diotrephes loved to have "preeminence," yet only two verses in the whole Bible mention him. 2) In those two verses, he is mentioned as a very wicked man. **Think about it!!** *"Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted"* (Matt. 23:12). Is pride ruining you, or are you too proud to admit it?

*"Everyone does it" does not justify your behavior. This excuse simply means you're as wrong as everyone else!*

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