

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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June 2, 2024

“Traveling Without God”

By John Humphries

There was a very popular song that made the top charts in 1969. It was called *“I Did It My Way.”* The song boasted that all through life the singer did everything their own way. There is no mention of God or God's way.

It clearly promotes the idea that we determine our own standard of morality, ethics, and how we live our life. It is the old situation ethics idea that is also called the new morality. There is no objective standard (such as the Scriptures), but each person becomes a law unto themselves. It is practical atheism - living as though there is no God and therefore no divine, eternal accountability.

This rebellion against the authority of God over His creation (and thus over each of us) is not anything new or novel. It has been around since humanity was created by our Maker.

In the Book of Judges, the statement is made several times and finally summed up stating, *“Everyone did what was right in his own eyes”* (Judges 21:25). Judges details numerous occurrences of individuals and groups following their own lustful, covetous, violent ways and not the way of the Lord. The Book records one disaster after another, as people *“did it my way”* and committed one sin after another.

The Book of Judges teaches the lesson that when man rejects God and his law, ungodliness and unrighteousness will take over resulting in rampant violence and immorality. The ugliness and vileness of godless, unrighteous humanity on display!

Jeremiah also dealt with the same problem. Israel (not the faithful remnant) had forgotten God and His law and were living the song *“I Did It My Way”* and were seriously angering God in the process (Jeremiah 2:32; 4:8; 5:30-31; 6:13; 7:30-31).

When Jeremiah exhorted them to return to God's way and walk therein, they replied, *“We will not walk in it”* (Jeremiah 6:16-17). The people were each saying, *“I'll do it my way!”* But Jeremiah further warned that, *“The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps”* (Jeremiah 10:13). The Proverbs warn, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”* (Proverbs 14:12).

Any way but the Lord's way, as revealed in His word, is a pathway of darkness and eternal ruin, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* (Psalm 119:105). *“To the law and to the testimony, if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”* (Isaiah 8:20).

To forsake the word of God (His way) and go one's own way, is to walk in darkness. We must walk in the light of God's revelation in order to have our sins forgiven through the blood of Christ (1 John 1:7). The broad way of *“I'll do it my way”* leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14).

“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God” (John 3:19-21).

The Lord accurately describes our world today. Multitudes love the darkness of *“I will do it my way”* and reject the Lord's way of truth (John 14:6). They are traveling without God and His guidance. They are sadly on a collision course with the judgment of God!



"BLAMING GOD IN THIS IRRESPONSIBLE AGE"

By Jerral Kay

Why does God let bad things happen to me?
Why won't God let me succeed at this or that?
God doesn't love me!

Proverbs 19:3 - *"The foolishness of man perverts his way: and is angry against the LORD."*

Months ago I wrote an article, "Did God Create Evil?" Lately, I watched the new movie, "Let It Shine!" Like most religious movies, Satan is not mentioned, because they teach that God is the cause of death and suffering of loved ones.

Why? The devil wears many costumes which appear good and righteous (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). He deceives the world into ignorance to accuse the Almighty God as our enemy, not him. The main reason many believe God is the instigator of distress which comes from the liberal religions in America, as seen in a funeral that I participated in at a Catholic church building.

The three priests believed and taught the hundreds of listeners that the two murdered victims in the caskets there died because of God's will. When it was my time to speak I stood and said, "These two loved ones are victims of a cruel death; not from God, but at the hands of murderers who carried out Satan's will performed by his ruthless followers!"

The reason Protestant and Catholic leaders blame God for evil and human suffering is because they do not know the true God: 2 Corinthians 4:4- *"The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."* We can truly know who our Helper and who it is that seeks to destroy us (1 Peter 5:6-11).

We hear complainers spouting that God is cruel, but when they are blessed with gifts from heaven, not a word or deed of thankfulness is given. God is love and apostle John wrote, *"I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, who accused them day and night before our God.'" (Revelation 12:10).* Our heavenly Father will not hear accusations against His children any longer from the devil.

"DETECT A DISCREPANCY?"

By J. P. Simons

Eagerly he "witnessed" his salvation experience to me. Perceiving that he had been ill-advised, I turned to the words of Jesus and handed the Bible to the young man, who willingly read aloud,

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16)

After he finished reading, our exchange proceeded along these lines. I asked, "Do you believe what Jesus said?" "No," he hesitantly replied; "I know that I was saved in the prison ministry as soon as I believed."

Do you detect a discrepancy? The boy believed that he had been saved – and that the one who had saved him was Jesus. Yet he could not bring himself to believe what Jesus Himself said about baptism.

No, the boy did not believe that the prison minister was the Son of God; he didn't believe that the guy had died for his sins. Nonetheless, he believed what this man said even though it meant rejecting what Jesus Himself said.

How would you assess the situation? How should this young man handle such a discrepancy? Now that he knows what Jesus says, should he remain satisfied with the prison-minister's theory of just how and when Jesus would save him, or should he act upon the Lord's counsel?

And how about you, dear reader? Is there a discrepancy between what some human told you to do to be saved and what Jesus tells you in Mark 16:16? Can you at the same time believe that Jesus saved you, yet disbelieve what Jesus Himself said about how you shall be saved?

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Isaiah Switcher (Tim Harris Jr's 1 cousin) has brain cancer, Anita Harris, and Fred Johnson had cataract surgery last Thursday.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Jr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Curse Of This World"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Jerry Kennemur
Hebrews
Author: Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page 12, Question #1

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Blake Briggs
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Doug George
Scripture Reading: Mark 11:20-24
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Danny Sheffield
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Extraordinary Faith By Ordinary People"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

June 5, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
Workbook: The Book Of Daniel
Author: By Daniel King
Starting Page & Question: Page #90, Question #6
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Tim Harris Sr.
Closing Prayer: Nathan Meade

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

And Our Facebook Page.

For sermon videos, articles, and announcements.

“The Curse Of This World”

Introduction: Richard Dawkins On Suffering In This World....

“The total amount of suffering per year is beyond all decent contemplation. During the minute that me to compose this sentence, thousands of animals are being eaten alive, many others are running for their lives, whimpering with fear, others are being slowly devoured from within by rasping parasites, thousands of all kinds are dying of starvation, thirst, and disease... the universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.”

River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life.

I. God Did Not Create That Kind Of World.

- God’s Creation- **Genesis 1:1-25.**
- “*It Was Good*” **Genesis 1:4; 1:10; 1:12; 1:18; 1:21; 1:25.**
- “*It Was Very Good*” **Genesis 1:26-31.**
- **Genesis 2:15-17 – 3:1-7.**
- Consequences Of Sin: **Genesis 3:8-24.**
 1. Guilt and Shame- **3:8-10.**
 2. Blaming Others And Excuse Making- **3:11-13.**
 3. Punishment For Sin- **3:14-19.**
 4. God Gave Hope For A Savior- **3:15; 22:18; Galatians 3:16.**

II. The World Today Is Just What The Bible Believer Expects.

- We Expect The World To Be Filled With Evil Because God’s Word Tell Us:
 - Job’s Outlook- **Job 14:1.** But Who Was The Real Cause? **Job 1-2.**
 - **1 John 5:18-21.**
- We Hope For God’s Promises-
 - The definition Of Hope: “favorable and confident expectation” It has to do with the unseen and the future, Rom. 8:24, 25. “Hope” describes (a) the happy anticipation of good.” (Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (Vol. 2, p. 311).
 - **Romans 8:18-25; Ephesians 4:4.**

III. The Pitiably View Of Man Without God.

- **With God, We Have:**
 - Purpose- **Ecclesiastes 12:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9.**
 - Meaning- **Philippians 1:21; 3:14; 4:13.**
 - Hope- **Colossians 1:5.**
 - Reward- **2 Timothy 4:7-8.**
- **Without God:**
 - No Purpose. - No Meaning-
“we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference.” (Richard Dawkins Quote).
 - No Hope- **Ephesians 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13.**
 - No Reward- **1 Corinthians 15:19.**
- Which Way Of Life Is Better?

“Extraordinary Faith By Ordinary People”

Lesson Text: **Mark 11:20-24.**

I. Faith Is Extraordinary.

- Real Faith Isn't Common- **2 Thessalonians 3:1-2.**
- A Lot Of People Claim To Have Faith, But Actually Few People Have It- **Matt. 8:10.**
- There Were Times Even His Closest Disciples Lacked Faith- **Luke 8:24-25; Matt. 17:14-21.**
- It Requires Doing What Doesn't Come Natural- Not Walking By Sight- **2 Cor. 5:7.**
- The Temptation To Think: All We See Around Us, Is All The Reality There Is!
- Our Walk With God Involves Future Promises And Unseen Realities- **Hebrews 11:1 & 6.**
- The Nature Of Our Hope In God- **Romans 8:24; John 20:29.**
- Many People Find It Difficult To Trust Anyone Or Anything In Life— Developed Trust Issues.
- Hard To Let Go And Let God Lead Us His Way... What Makes Faith Extraordinary!

II. The Faith Of Ordinary People.

- The Temptation: To Think Of People Of Extraordinary Faith As Something Beyond Our Reach.
- We Somehow Think It Was Easier For Them Because.... Their Situation, Lineage, Environment...
- We Can Even Think Such Faith Is Harder For Us In These Modern Times. But Is It Really?
- Who Are The Heroes Of Faith? Their Backgrounds?
 - Noah- A Farmer- **Genesis 9:20.**
 - Joseph- One Of Twelve Sons (Teenager)- **Genesis 37:2.**
 - Moses- The Son Of Hebrew Slaves- **Exodus 2:6.**
 - Samuel- A Young Boy Helper To The Priest- **1 Samuel 1:18-24.**
 - Rahab- **Hebrews 11:31.**
 - David- **1 Samuel 17:34.**
 - Elijah- **James 5:17-18.**
 - Elisha- **1 Kings 19:19.**
 - The Twelve Disciples- **Acts 4:13; Luke 5:8.**

III. Our Faith Makes Us Extraordinary!

- Because Of Our Choice To Believe God, Our Faith Changes Things!
- God Changes:
 1. Our Status With Him, Reconciled To Him- **Colossians 1:19-23.**
 2. We Are No Longer Condemned- **Romans 8:1.**
 3. God Makes Us His Children- **1 John 3:1-3.**
 4. We Have Heaven As Our Reward- **1 Peter 1:3-4.**