

God's Word

“There is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12).

Quite a few people today believe they are on the right path, so much so they might not even give it a second thought. But hopefully they will.

The Apostle Paul was a person like this. His Jewish faith was so strong he was blinded by his own righteousness and his ignorance of the truth.

He said if any man had a reason to trust in the outward appearance of righteousness, he had even more. He was circumcised the eighth day, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee. He zealously persecuted the Christian Church and the righteousness that came by obeying the law was his. He was blameless and above reproach. (see: Philippians 3:4-9)

Paul thought he was pleasing God by observing the laws and ceremonies of his religion, but actually he was proud and displeasing to God.

Here is Paul before his conversion: “As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house and hailing men and women committed them to prison” (Acts 8:3). “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest. And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem” (Acts 9:1, 2).

He was so blinded by his hatred of those who left and opposed his faith and religion that he didn't take time to seek the truth. Saul, named Paul after his conversion, believed he was doing his best to serve God but was actually persecuting the Lord in his ignorance. “Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor and injurious: but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief” (1 Timothy 1:13).

The Lord stopped Saul and spoke to him and Saul responded with obedience and went and preached Jesus.

This is Saul after his conversion: “But what things were gain to me I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Philippians 3:7-9).

Paul who once considered himself blameless and very righteous said that after he met and followed Jesus: “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 3:15).

Paul saw his self-righteousness for what it was and looking to Jesus realized he deserved hell.

He lost his faith in the righteousness he was establishing by following his religion and put his faith in the righteousness Christ had established for him on the cross.

This is what Paul said: “For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God. Not of works lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). “Without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6). “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

A good way to determine your relationship with God can be based on your reaction toward His word. Do you have a desire for it or do you put or turn it off? “As newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby. If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Peter 2:2, 3). “He that is of God heareth God’s words, ye therefore hear them not because ye are not of God” (John 8:47).

If you have not really given God’s word the priority it should have, and you want to be sure you are on the right path, then hear God’s advice. “But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deuteronomy 4:29). “Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways saith the Lord” (Isaiah 56:6-8).

Your thoughts and ways concerning your salvation and what is necessary are not the Lord’s. “For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the gospels the same shall save it” (Mark 8:35).

Check out God’s word for yourself. “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8). “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to the word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isaiah 8:20).

Don’t let yourself be deceived or surprised when you arrive at your eternal destination. Read God’s word to be sure you are on the right path and clothed with the righteousness of God which is by faith in Christ Jesus.

Listen to the ending of the parable of the marriage feast: “And when the king came in to see the guest, he saw there a man who had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, friend how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few chosen” (Matthew 22:11-14).

Jesus said: “These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full” (John 15:11).

The Apostle John wrote this: “And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:4).

Read Psalm 119 to find out more about God's word and what it can do for you: "The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psalm 119:130).

"Great peace have they which love Thy law,
and nothing shall offend them"
(Psalm 119:165).

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