

Man's Way Vs. God's Way

“**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man**, [emphasis added] but the end thereof are the ways of death.”
{Proverbs 14:12}

In the Garden of Eden Satan caused Eve to question what God had said concerning eating of a forbidden fruit. After that, Adam disobeyed God by also eating of the fruit [Genesis, Chapter 3]. The moment Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, the sin nature came into humanity. But God did not leave Adam or the rest of humanity without hope; He gave the promise of a Saviour, one who would become payment for the sin debt. [Genesis 3:15] Since then the trend of humanity has been to devise its own way to please God and to go to Heaven. Man, speaking of all humanity, refuses to believe God; man wants to do it his own way.

In the Old Testament we have what is called *The Mosaic Law*, instructions God gave to Moses for the nation of Israel. The instructions were very specific and no room for variation. Included in this were the instructions for making atonement for sin and this always included the death of an animal and the shedding of the animal's blood. The atonement was only temporary and needed to be repeated many times over, and it was. Even though the atonement was temporary, it pointed to the permanent atonement that God would provide in the coming Messiah that He had promised. When God makes a promise, He keeps it and He does so on His timetable, not ours. People in the Old Testament were saved by faith, believing God and looking ahead to the coming of Messiah. We commonly say they were saved by looking ahead to the Cross. Today, people are saved by looking back to the Cross.

Messiah did come just as God said He would and, the Messiah is Jesus Christ who is God incarnate, God in the flesh. As God the Son, Jesus took to Himself the body of a man when He was born of the virgin Mary, who had been conceived of by the Holy Spirit [Matthew 1:18-23]. Jesus did this for one specific reason, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” [Luke 19:10] God was keeping His promise!

For approximately thirty-three years Jesus Christ performed many miracles by changing water to wine, healing sick people, raising the dead, taught with authority, and clearly identified Himself as Messiah and yet, many people refused to believe Him. Why? Because they had *their religion* and wanted to do things *their way*. As Jesus taught, often in the synagogues, He exposed the zealous false religionists for what they were, “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.” [Matthew 23:27]

Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested by the religious people and to be put on trial, a trial where the religious people had already made their decision. As innocent as He was {even the Roman judge, Pilate declared Him innocent when he said, “When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for **I find no fault in him** [emphasis added].” [John 19:6] Crucify Jesus they did; He shed His innocent blood and He died on the Cross of Calvary; Roman soldiers testified that He was in fact dead. [John 19:33] Jesus was buried and three days later, He bodily rose from the grave He had been placed in and, today, at this very moment, He is back in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father. “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;” [Hebrews 10:12] God kept the promise He had made! The Old Testament blood sacrifices were only temporary but with Jesus, it was final and permanent. “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” [Hebrews 9:11-14]

Why did Jesus do this for us? Because He loves us so much. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” [Romans 5:8] It was the death and blood of Jesus that paid our sin debt. “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:” [1 Peter 1:18-19]

The Bible says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." [John 14:6] There is only one way to God the Father and Heaven and, it is through the person of Jesus Christ. Man, speaking of all humanity, refuses to believe God; man wants to do it his own way. But, as Jesus said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." [Luke 13:3, 5] Good works, charitable giving, clean living, forced conversion, church attendance, etc., none of this matter when it comes to going to Heaven. It is all of God's grace and by faith in Him alone. "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] "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." [Titus 3:5-7]

Friend, you may try it your way if you want to but, it'll all be in vain because it is **ALL** God's way or no way at all. God said it and that settles it; people just need to believe it. For those who do believe God He promises, "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." [1 John 5:11,13] Please, repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ today, before it is eternally too late!

--Richard A. Ciarrocca/Nov. 2019

All Scripture references are KJV