

Show Me Your Way

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

The clear, Finished Work message of the Gospel of Christ is so important to our lives. Many appreciate it and love it, but it is really made evident in how believers relate to each other.

It is the love of God that must constrain us and motivate us, not human effort. The way of God is seeing that our sins and the sins of the whole world were nailed to the Cross. The Bible says clearly that because Christ died for all, we are all dead to our flesh.

This booklet is written to show that God's way is a narrow way—a way that, if followed, enables us to see the things that are of God. It is also a way that leads to a ministry of reconciliation, drawing all men to Him.

Chapter One

BLOT OUT THE DEEDS
OF THE FLESH

“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died then were all dead:

“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet henceforth know we him no more.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new.

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

“To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling

the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

“Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:14-21).

The Ten Commandments are really God’s love expressed ten different ways. The entire law of God is summed up in one word: love. “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:13-16).

Here is the principle. If Jesus Christ died for all, does He have any record of sin? No. Does Jesus know us after the flesh? He doesn’t. He does take some saved people to heaven early because of the sin unto physical death (Romans 6:16; 1 John 5:16). But He takes them to *heaven*, because He covers us with His Blood*

Know No Man after the Flesh

The Word of God says, "Know no man after the flesh." Knowing people after the flesh is a real sin that Christians commit over and over again. When someone fails, but then repents and gets right, many believers are tremendously merciful and don't even want to hear about what happened. Others are not that way, because they know people after the flesh with regard to their failure. In fact, those people who judge others are living in the flesh (Romans 14:4).

It takes living in our flesh to know someone after the flesh. Really, the reason we would want to know someone else after the flesh is so we don't feel so bad toward our own flesh (Job 34:8; Psalm 35:11-12).

When God says, "I, even I, have blotted out your transgressions for mine own sake and I remember not your sins" what does He mean? He means that He has blotted out all of our transgressions, and He no longer knows us after them. He cannot remember our sins. As far as God is concerned, the sins are gone. They do not exist.

If we bring sins back to remembrance, we lie against God. We reveal that we are not living in

the principle that says our transgressions have been blotted out.

“I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, your sins: I remember them not for I have redeemed you,” God declared in Isaiah 44:22. This means that God has erased our sins as if they had never happened. They cannot be found.

If this is true (and it most certainly is), does anyone have a right to bring up a single sin? No, other than to make people accountable to judicial law and God’s established table of organization. For example, people who practice physical abuse must be held accountable and be reported to the authorities. But this principle is referring to the situations that go on in our lives. It is not an excuse to continue to live in sin. If we do, God will start disciplining us to restore us to Himself (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The Blood and the Scapegoat

“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sancti-

fied, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace" (Hebrews 10:28-29).

One who tramples the Blood of Christ under his feet and considers it unholy takes the Blood and makes it common. They become very familiar with it, and it has no sacred value in their hearts and in their souls.

Those who reject Jesus Christ trample His Blood under their feet, and the unlimited atonement is of no value to them. He paid for their sins, even though they will go to hell.

A Christian tramples the Blood under his feet when he doesn't see that the Blood was shed to cleanse everyone from all of their sins. If we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7). The Blood is precious. In the land of Goshen in Egypt, God declared, "When I see the blood, then I will pass over you" (Exodus 13:12). Through His Blood we have redemption (Ephesians 1:7).

In Leviticus 16:8, we see the principle of the two goats.** The blood of the first goat was shed for God. The second goat, called the scapegoat, was sent alive into "a land not inhabited"—abandoned by God. According to Leviticus

16:21-22, all of Israel's sins, iniquities, and transgressions were placed upon the second goat. A fit man—a picture of Jesus Christ, the only truly fit man to ever live on earth—took that goat away, cut the rope, and sent it off.

The message is this: The blood of the first goat paid for all of the sins that were placed on the second goat, which was never found again as it was sent into the wilderness. Therefore, none of those sins can be used to accuse those who receive the sacrifice of the first goat.

**For more about the sin unto physical death, read The Great Detective: Sin, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

***For more about the scapegoat, read God's Greatest Gift: The Lamb, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Two

THE SPIRIT'S ORDER: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

“[God] made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel” (Psalm 103:7).

“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).

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

“Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

Why did Jesus say, “I am the way, the truth, and the life?” Why didn’t He say, “I am the life, the truth, and the way”? Everything arranged in the Holy Spirit’s order is of great importance, and God knows that we can never know the truth of a person unless we know their way.

There is a broad way and a narrow way. The narrow way is a Person—Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has a way, and this way is through His Blood. When God sees the Blood of redemption applied to our lives, He passes over our sins because the Blood has paid for them.

The narrow way is through the death of God's Son. I must find the way in order to know the truth. And, I can never experience the life if I don't know the way that comes before it. Being in the way, the Lord can lead us (see Genesis 24:27). There is also a wrong way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is eternal hell (Proverbs 14:12).

What is God's way? It is the Son dying in our place and then representing us in heaven to the Father, even while we have an old sin nature. He does not allow one sin to be charged to our account (Romans 4:7-8). If we sin, our fellowship with God is broken. But once we repent and confess it, He can restore fellowship with us immediately.

Get to Know Him

God's way is the way of the Cross. When you know that Someone died for you on the Cross, then you want to get to know that Person.

He died and commended His love toward us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8), and He did it while we were astray (Isaiah 53:6). This is God's way. God's way reveals God's truth that produces God's life. He receives us just as we are, and He has placed us inside His Son, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We must understand that God's way is the way of grace, mercy, forgiveness, cleansing, faith, purity, peace, and joy. God's way is never imputing sins to us. If He died for us while we were yet sinners, won't He do much more for us now that we are His children (Romans 8:32)? So first we need to know God's way.

Often, people get married when they don't know the way of the person they are marrying.

We can't know people unless we have been around them for quite a while, in a variety of situations. We get to know their ways when we see them under every kind of pressure and watch how they respond. If they are betrayed, will they pray for their enemies? In spite of adversity, do they obey the Great Commission and obey the Great Commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself"? Are they honest? Do they work hard and pay their bills?

Imagine if someone you had never known

came to you and said, "I have \$10,000, but I need \$20,000 to start a new business. Give me \$10,000, and we will go into business together." You may seem to like this person, but you don't know him. No sound businessman would take such a risk with his money. Someone else may say, "This person is a wonderful Christian with great integrity. He loves God and his character is good." Still, you cannot trust anyone beyond what you know about him.

Chapter Three

PLANTED IN THE WAY WE SHOULD GO

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent” (John 17:3).

If our sins are blotted out, and if, according to Romans 4:7-8, God’s way is to never impute a single sin to us, then God’s truth is that He died for us. God’s life is that He sent His Holy Spirit to live in us when we believe and receive His truth. Genesis 1:11 says that if you plant a certain seed in the ground, whatever you plant is what will come up. God’s life is planted in us so we can get to know God’s way and live in God’s truth. The more that I hear about what Jesus has done, the more I can trust Him, because I know He will be consistent.

In Exodus 14:13-15, Israel was told to “stand still, and see the salvation of God. The Lord will fight for you. Now, move forward.” Then He

parted the Red Sea, and they walked through. He led them with a cloud by day. They were baptized into the cloud. The cloud speaks of the presence of God. This is a picture of each of us being baptized into Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit at the point we are saved (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

Three million people faced the bitter water. They were thirsty, and they all needed to water their animals, and they all began to murmur. In Exodus 15:25, God showed them a tree. The tree was put into the bitter waters and the waters were made sweet. The tree is a picture of the Cross.

In Exodus 16:4, God sent manna—food from heaven. In Exodus 17, there was no water, so the Lord told Moses to smite the rock (in verse 6) and water came out of the rock. This is a type of the Holy Spirit bringing in floods of living water because Jesus Christ was crucified on our behalf.

As Israel wandered through the wilderness, their clothes grew with them. They didn't have to get new shoes, because their shoes never wore out (see Deuteronomy 29:5). God provided because there was no other way. That was the way God led them, and He made His nature and His character known to Moses.

Know Him by Obedience

The more we study God's Word and pray and see God's blessings, the more we trust Him. The more we follow His Word by faith obedience and through prayer, the more we will get to know Him. We can trust Him because we know His ways.

But if we don't hear His Word, which produces faith (Romans 10:17), then we won't get to know how loving, forgiving, and faithful God is. If we don't know that He is a forgiving God, then we can't trust Him when we have sinned. Now, because we know He is a forgiving God, we can name our sin, turn our back upon it, isolate it, forget it, and go forward with Jesus (Philippians 3:13-14).

We can never trust someone we don't fully know. This doesn't mean that we mistrust him. It just means we can't trust him. We just don't know him enough to trust him.

Spiritual Training for Children

God would have a believer marry another believer so that they can train up children for God (Malachi 2:15). Thousands of parents who are basically good people fail to train up their children in faith. Instead, by failing to train up a

child in God's way, they are allowing the world to train up their children to spend eternity in hell. Imagine a mother giving birth to a child, providing for the child physically and materially but not providing spiritually. Most likely as this child becomes a teenager, he or she starts living in sin, falling into drug addiction, and living for the devil because he or she never knew about God. Eventually, the child dies and goes to hell. The truth is that without someone investing and spiritually leading him in God's way, the child will grow up and go to hell.

If children are trained spiritually and they do wrong, the parents are not accountable for their choices (Deuteronomy 24:16). If the children are not trained spiritually, then it is the parents' fault—they are accountable and the blood of those children will be on their hands (Ezekiel 3:17-20).

“For the redemption of their soul is precious” (Psalm 49:8a). By the grace of Almighty God, we must train our children in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

This is why we have Christian schools as part of our ministry. They are there to help parents train their children for God. The teachers and school leaders will get phenomenal rewards

in heaven for the sacrifices they have made. Many of them could get twice as much money doing other things, but they have chosen something else. They have chosen to prepare children for eternity and make an emphasis on living spiritually through God's way, His truth, and His life.

“For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things” (Zechariah 8:12).

CONCLUSION

God wants people everywhere to be blessed of the Lord, but He is the only way that we can be blessed. God's truth is the only truth by which we can ever know Him. He is the only life by which we can live. He is the way, the truth, and the life. God wants us to accept the Blood and to see everyone else as under the Blood as well. Everything we do must be in the love of God—and the Ten Commandments represent ten ways to love your neighbor.

“Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight, and consider that this nation is thy people” (Exodus 33:13).

Moses prayed this prayer: “Show me now thy way.” He wanted to know God and let grace teach him and deliver him from himself. The key is in receiving the Word of God, which, when it falls on “good ground,” brings forth

fruit—some a hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, and some thirty-fold (Matthew 13:23), depending on the capacity of the hearer.

“Good ground” speaks of an honest heart (Luke 8:15). When the Word of God falls on an honest heart, that heart is changed. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God’s grace lets us retain and recollect even what we seemingly can’t remember. We can be changed for the next week and the next month by what we have heard today from God’s Word. But as we faithfully hear the Word, we will be continually changed, from glory to glory.