

# The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 2

March 9, 2014

## “Would Jesus Do What We Do?”

Jarrod Jacobs

**T**his question is a little different from the oft-asked question “What would Jesus do?” It is true that asking what Jesus might do in a situation is a righteous question to ask. Such a question is consistent with Bible teaching (Col. 3:17; I Pet. 4:11; etc.). However, in this article, let’s put this question in a different light by asking if Jesus would be doing what we are currently doing. Would He be practicing what we are practicing? Would Jesus ....

### Make Excuses For Not Attending Worship Services?

Would it be a logical thing to assume that if Jesus were on earth today He would not be present to worship God and study His word every time He could? Jesus gave His body and His life’s blood to purchase the church (Jn. 19:33-34; Acts 20:28). The church’s work includes spreading His word, the gospel, and worshipping God “*in spirit and in truth*” (I Thess. 1:8; Jn. 4:24). Therefore, would Jesus do what many do today and not attend every worship service, offering lame excuses as to why He thought it necessary to neglect this time with brethren in worship to God (Heb. 10:24-25)? It is unthinkable to suggest that Jesus would not regard His church any more than one does a social club!

### Do Just Enough To Get By?

We have some who want to do “just enough” of the Lord’s work to get by or be considered “faithful” by men. Some seem unconcerned about what God thinks, so long as men consider them faithful (Rev. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58; Matt. 6:2, 5, 16). Would Jesus do what we do? In I Peter 2:21-22, we learn the answer when we read, “*For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.*” Jesus certainly kept all the law of Moses. He did not just do enough to “get by,” but did all! No, we are not under the law of Moses today (Col. 2:14); but we are under the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). As Christ did, so let us do all we are commanded so that we may have “*the right to the tree of life*” (Rev. 22:14)!

### Act Hypocritical?

Knowing that some Christians are hypocrites, would Jesus be a hypocrite? The Bible reveals the answer. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for being hypocrites. They said one thing and did something else (Matt. 23:13-36). In contrast, Jesus practiced what He preached (Acts 1:1)! Notice that in Matthew 23:3-4, Jesus told His disciples to “observe and do” what these people said. Jesus did not exalt Himself, or act in a hypocritical way to those He was teaching. Knowing this truth, why do we think we can get away with acting

one way on Sunday, and living another way the rest of the week?

### Rely On His Opinions Rather Than The Word Of God?

We do not have to look far to see people who will try to justify themselves by their opinions instead of submitting to God’s Word. Too many live their lives based upon what they feel rather than what has been taught in Scripture. Would Jesus do this? No! While upon this earth, Jesus never relied on what He wanted to do. He did what God told Him (Lk. 2:51; Jn. 12:49-50; Matt. 26:39, 42, 44). Jesus kept the law without fail (I Pet. 2:22). Knowing that this is the case, would Jesus be doing what we are doing? Who are we to think we can do something that the Son of God did not do?

### Teach In Such A Way So As To Not “Offend” Anyone?

There is a cry today from men who say that we ought not offend anyone by our teaching, but “be as Jesus was.” So, let us find out how Jesus was! One example of how our Lord taught is seen in Matthew 15. After Jesus condemned the Pharisees for honoring their traditions more than God’s commands, the disciples said, “*Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?*” (Matt. 15:12). Jesus answered by saying, “*Let them alone...*” (Matt. 15:14). Some men allow hurt feelings, angry looks and the like (or the potential for such) to keep them from spreading the truth. Would Jesus do as we do? No, Jesus did not allow these things to get in the way of teaching and preaching the Truth! It is a sad commentary on brethren when we see them refuse to spread the gospel

because they do not want to hurt anyone's feelings. Beware of those who act like this, and let us act and speak as Jesus did (Col. 3:17; I Pet. 2:21-22). There is something that is far worse than "hurt feelings", and that is lost souls!!

**Conclusion**

"Would Jesus Do What We Do?" is a very serious question to ask. Let us take some time to examine ourselves, how we act, what we say, etc. (II Cor. 13:5). Perhaps it is that we do not want Christ doing what we have been doing!!

**Putting Our Trust In The Lord**

Greg King Jamestown, IN

**B**lessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. (Ps. 40:4-5)

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)*

Trusting God is a real test of our faith and knowledge and understanding of Him and His word. Do I trust God no matter what comes? No matter what! That's what I have to do! The alternative is to trust in myself and lean on my own understanding. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the

*way of death.*" Jeremiah 10:23 says, "I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps." When it appears that my life is spiraling out of control, I have to remember that God loves me. The God that created the heavens and the earth and created mankind is alive and working in our lives today. I've got to trust him to direct my path.

I have thought a lot this week about Job. If ever a man trusted in God it was Job. When God finally responded to Job and his question of why; beginning in chapter 38, Jehovah God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind. God directed Job's attention to His unequalled power, His unchallenged wisdom, and His almighty presence. Things that Job already knew about God. Things I know about God. Knowing who God is, knowing of God's presence, knowing that God has plans that we cannot see and do not understand should be sufficient to help us achieve peace during trial. We must not allow the turmoil and suffering of this life to rob us of our faith, joy, and trust in God or keep us from obtaining the comfort He promises to provide.

**Editor's Note:**

Please pay close attention to

our brother King's writing. These were very good thoughts. Brother King penned these words on February 11 of this year. Unfortunately, he lost his wife, Stacy, last week (3/2/14) to cancer. Please keep bro. King in your prayers.

- ♦ "The noise of escaping gas does not interest me, whether it be from a leaky pipe or a man's mouth."
- ♦ "Some seem not to know the difference between prejudice and conscience."

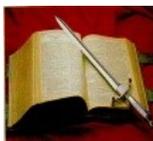
R.L. Whiteside, Doctrinal Discourses, p. 136

**"IT IS BETTER TO..."**

Larry Ray Hafley, Cookeville, TN

- ♦ ... hear bad news that is true than good news that is false.
- ♦ ... be a slave in the Savior than to be a master in Satan.
- ♦ ... imprisoned for truth than to be free in error.
- ♦ ... be silent and satisfied than to speak and be sorry.

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