

The Old Paths

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“Come And See ...”

Jarrod Jacobs

John 1:45-46 records the occasion when Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” At that time, Nathanael asked, “Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip answered, “Come and see.”

Throughout the Scripture, this principle is seen as folks were continually encouraged to investigate, “see,” and learn about God and His word. God does nothing in a “corner,” but encourages people to come and “test,” “examine,” and “learn” all about Him. In the case of Philip and Nathanael’s discussion, Jesus was glad when Nathanael came to Him, stating, “Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” (Jn. 1:47).

The truth does not fear honest, open investigation. In fact, Jesus said on another occasion, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30). Take note of those words, “come,” “take,” “learn,” and “find.” Christ was encouraging people to take action! He wanted them to make sure and prove to themselves what the truth is. A similar thing was said by the apostle Paul when he

wrote, “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God*” (Rom. 12:2). The word “prove” suggests that one is proving to himself what the truth is. To the Thessalonians, he said, “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*” (I Thess. 5:21). In other words, “come and see”!

Perhaps the greatest example of one who “tried it all” was a man named Solomon. He wrote about his experience and concluded that all of one’s duty is summed up in the sentence: “*Fear God and keep His commandments*” (Ecc. 12:13).

We have nothing to hide in our work and worship to God. In fact, we encourage people to investigate, study, and ask questions. This is the best way people can learn. When we talk to folks about the Lord’s church here at Caneyville, let us encourage them to “*come and see*.” Come and see....

A People Committed To Doing What The Bible Says.

The Bible says, “*If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...*” (I Pet. 4:11). Paul taught, “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*” (Col. 3:17). Seeing that this is the case, we are committed to simply learning, speaking, following, and acting as the Bible reveals! In a world that says there are no standards, that truth is “relative,” and that no one has the

right to “condemn” the sinful actions of others, we need to get back to what God has said, respect His will, and live by it!

A People Committed To Worship God In Harmony With New Testament Worship.

Jesus told the woman He met at the well, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth*” (Jn. 4:24). In other words, no worship is accepted with God that is not “in spirit and in truth.” Therefore, our worship needs to be structured in that way, worshipping God in connection with the spirit and with the truth! Specifically, we see New Testament Christians worshipping God through preaching, prayers, singing, taking the Lord’s Supper, and giving (Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; I Cor. 11:23-28; Eph. 5:19). When we gather on the Lord’s day, we follow this example in worship.

Why do we worship God in this way? It is because we have accepted the Lord’s invitation to investigation and have learned what He wants. Now, in following Christ’s example, we need to encourage folks to investigate, to “come and see” what the truth is.

Conclusion

I am convinced that many of today’s problems in the religious world stem from folks who teach something and then leave the impression that they are all-knowing, and above being questioned. Shame on folks who are like that. Jesus Christ encouraged investigation; righteous people told others “come and see”; and we must encourage folks to learn of Christ and be saved today!

Legalized Sin

Aric Russell

I am thankful we live in a free country. No society in the history of the world has enjoyed the rights and freedoms we enjoy here in the United States of America. However, we need to realize that just because our government tells us something is legal, it does not make it right. I want to take just a minute to remind you of some things that are legalized sins. Legalized sins are things that are legal according to our government, but yet are sinful.

The first legalized sin I want to point out is **Gambling**. It is perfectly legal to go to the horse track and place a bet on your favorite horse. It is perfectly legal to go to the casino. It is perfectly legal to stop at the gas station and buy your weekly lottery ticket or buy your favorite scratch off tickets. It is perfectly legal to do all of these things, but again to do so, is sin! Did you know that gambling violates the basic Bible principle of work (Eph. 4:28; II Thess. 3:7-10)? Not only does gambling violate the basic principle of work but gambling is driven by covetousness. Covetousness is the desire to have more; it's greediness (Strong's). In Colossians 3:5, we find that Paul warns against covetousness. In fact, he even says that covetousness is the same as idolatry. It is idolatry because the moment we put anything before God, it is idolatry. Yes, according to our government, gambling is legal. However, it is still sinful.

Another legalized sin is **Abortion**. On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United

States of America ruled in the famous Roe vs. Wade case that unborn babies are not legal persons, and therefore, have no rights under the Constitution. The mother can have the baby killed, even up to the time of birth if the doctor agrees. How sad this is. Did you know, in the New Testament, the Greek word "brephos" is used to designate an unborn baby and a baby after birth (Luke 1:41,44; 2:12, 16)? A baby in the womb is still a baby. To kill a baby outside the womb is murder. Therefore, to kill a baby in the womb is murder. Yes our government says it is legal, but God says it is a sin.

Finally, I want to point out that **Homosexuality** is a legalized sin. Today, more and more states are ruling to allow homosexual marriages. Even though states are saying it is legal, God still says it is sinful. Notice what is said in I Corinthians 6:9-10. The text reads, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."* The text is clear and easy to read and understand. Will you follow what we find in God's

Word?

There are other things we could talk about that are legalized sins, but we will stop with the ones we have mentioned. I challenge you to look at yourself. Are you practicing a legalized sin? Are there things in your life you are doing that are legal, yet sinful? If so, will you correct those things? Will you ask God to forgive you and live your life to serve Him? We must remember that even if our government says something is legal, it does not always make it right according to the Word of God.

Anvil Sparks

R.L. Whiteside

- ◆ A hint to speakers and writers: There are only two adjectives in the twenty-third Psalm.
- ◆ Sometimes you can tell which way you are headed by looking at the crowd around you.
- ◆ The person who shows spite and hatred will reap his share of it.
- ◆ Any religious body in the wrong is less harmful as an enemy than as an ally.

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