

# ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?

Among those who claim to be religious today, there is a philosophy which is common to nearly all of them. That is the idea that "ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN!" "So you go YOUR way and I will go MINE!" If we accept this doctrine we might as well stop trying to convert people to the Bible way, the truth of God and the doctrine of Jesus Christ! Paul told Titus in Titus 2:6,7 (NKJV)"Likewise exhort the young men to be sober minded, in all things showing yourself {to be} a pattern of good works; **in doctrine {showing} integrity, reverence, incorruptibility,**" Then to the brethren at Ephesus he wrote in Ephesians 4:14 "that we should no longer be children, **tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive." The Bible not only says there IS such a thing as FALSE DOCTRINE, it speaks against **all false doctrine.** In Colossians 2:22 Paul speaks against "the **commandments and doctrines of men.**" And in Matthew 15:9 Jesus says that those who worship Him "teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" are worshiping in vain! And inspiration warns us in Hebrews 13:9 "Do **not be carried about with various and strange doctrines...**" Dear ones, there are some doctrines that are so **strange** that no one could find them in the Bible if their lives depended on it! Anything that is so **strange** that the Bible speaks against it or says nothing about it, we had better let it alone. Just like the Lord destroyed two brothers, sons of Aaron, for using strange fire in worship according to Leviticus Chapter 10, He will also destroy every other man and his brother who uses **strange doctrine.**

Instead of STRANGE DOCTRINE, we need SOUND DOCTRINE- Titus 2:1 "But as for you, speak the things which are proper for **sound doctrine:**" We need "the doctrine of Christ," 2 John 9 "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in **the doctrine of Christ** does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son." As Paul said in Titus 2:8 we need "sound speech that cannot be condemned." Furthermore, we need the courage of the apostles. In Acts 5:28, they were told by the council:"Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, **you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine,** and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!"

We need to give people GOOD DOCTRINE. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:2 "for I give you **good doctrine:** do not forsake my law." It must have been in harmony with the word of God, because Psalm 12:6 says "The **words of the Lord {are} pure words,** {Like} silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times." Psalm 119:140 says "**Your word {is} very pure;** Therefore Your servant loves it." According to 1 Timothy 4:6, Timothy was "a good minister" who preached "good doctrine." He did not preach damnable heresies. 2 Peter 2:1 speaks about damnable heresies -"But there were also **false prophets among the people,** even as **there will be false teachers among you,** who will secretly bring in

**destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, {and} bring on themselves swift destruction."

It is our purpose in this lesson to show that it is **wrong** and **misleading** to tell people or preach to people, "You go your way and I'll go mine." Note here they are talking about "YOUR WAY & MY WAY." The prophet David wrote in Psalm 37:23 "The **steps of a {good} man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.**" A GOOD MAN does not WALK in his OWN WAY - but his steps are directed by the LORD! It is the LORD'S way! Again, David said in Psalm 119:30 "I have **chosen the way of truth;** Your judgments I have laid {before me}." And the apostle Peter wrote in 2 Peter 2:2 concerning false teachers: "And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom **the way of truth will be blasphemed.**" We are told in Acts 19:9 that "...when some were hardened and did not believe, **but spoke evil of THE WAY** before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus." Notice here it was THE WAY which Paul was preaching! Not A WAY! The WAY we are taking IS IMPORTANT! Even in the Old Testament, we find the prophet Isaiah saying in Isaiah 8:11 "For the Lord spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that **I should not walk in the way of this people,...**" Here we find people walking in the wrong way. And GOD said DON'T walk with them! There are multiplied thousands in the wrong way today. For that reason, we can't tell them, "You go your way and I'll go mine." Samuel did not take such an attitude. He told Saul in 1 Samuel 12:23 "...**I will teach you the good and the right way.**" The Wise Man of Old said in Proverbs 14:12 "There is A WAY which **seems right** to a man, but **its end {is} the way of death.**"

David said in Psalm 119:104 that God taught him to HATE EVERY FALSE WAY. Psalm 119:104 "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore **I hate every false way.**" A false way is just like false teeth, it is not genuine, not real. Again David said in Psalm 119:128 "Therefore all {Your} precepts {concerning} all {things} I consider {to be} right; **I hate every false way.**" That's why the Lord said through Haggai in Haggai 1:7 "Consider your ways!" Consider these passages:

Psalm 36:4 "He devises wickedness on his bed; **He sets himself in A WAY {that is} not good; He does not abhor evil.**"

Romans 3:12 "They have all **gone out of THE WAY;** they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one."

Proverbs 2:20 "so you **may walk in THE WAY of goodness,** and keep {to} the paths of righteousness."

God said in Hosea 4:9 "And it shall be: like people, like priest. So **I will punish them for THEIR WAYS, and reward them for their deeds.**"

That's why David said in Psalm 25:4 "Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me **YOUR PATHS.**"

Man CANNOT DEVISE HIS OWN WAY. Jeremiah said in Jeremiah 10:23 "O Lord, I know the way of man {is} not in himself; **{it is} not in man who walks to direct his own steps.**" No wonder Solomon said to God in 1 Kings 8:36 "then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of Your servants, Your people Israel, **that You may teach them the good way in which they should walk...**" David wrote in Psalm 18:30 "{As for} **God, His way {is} perfect;** The word of the Lord is proven; He {is} a shield to all who trust in Him." These same words are also recorded in 2 Samuel 22:31. And in the 19th Psalm and verse 7 David wrote: "The **law of the Lord {is} perfect,** converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord {is} sure, making wise the simple."

In prophesying about the coming of the gospel and the Messiah, God said through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 32:38,39 "They shall be My people, and I will be their God; `then **I will give them ONE HEART and ONE WAY,** that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them." God said He would give them ONE WAY. Dear ones, there are people who believe firmly that there is one way for all of us, but they are not as wise concerning what that way is as they should be. We have just such a case in Acts 18:26. It says, "So he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and **explained to him THE WAY OF GOD more accurately.**" Here we see that Apollos, who was a preacher, had to be taught the way of the Lord more accurately. I firmly believe that there are many preachers today who need to be taught the word of the Lord and the way of the Lord more accurately!

One thing that we could all appreciate Apollos for, is the fact that when he learned better he did better. Today, it is sad to say, we have preachers who have learned better, but they have not done better. Many of them teach false doctrine and know full well that they are preaching false doctrine, but they just don't care. Many of them don't care that they teach men the doctrine of **faith only, infant baptism, the mourners bench system of religion, there's nothing in a name, instrumental music in worship, sprinkling for baptism, join the church of your choice, vote on a person before he can get into the church, a child of God cannot commit a sin, all churches have Christians in them, baptism is not essential to salvation, a second chance to be saved after death, Christians should obey the Law of Moses, babies are born in sin, let your conscience be your guide, sinners need the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you are saved if you feel you are saved, people can defy God's laws on divorce and remarriage and still make heaven their home, just a little error does not make one a "false teacher!" etc..**" Dear ones, all of these doctrines came out of the minds of men and not out of the mind of God. As God said in Jeremiah 32:35 "...which I **did not command them, nor did it come into My mind** that they should

do this abomination..." Every person who trusts in the preacher who preaches these false doctrines is putting his trust in man. As the Lord said through Jeremiah in Jeremiah 17:5 "...Cursed {is} the man who **TRUSTS IN MAN...**"

The inspired apostles of Jesus Christ never taught any of these false doctrines. That's why we should not believe them. Jesus said that people were to believe on Him through the **WORDS SPOKEN BY THE APOSTLES** (John 17:20)! You know full well that the apostles didn't say a word on behalf of *any* false doctrine. If they did anything at all, they spoke against *all false doctrine*.

Our protection against ALL false doctrine is OUR STANDARD - THE BIBLE. It gives us the ONLY infallible way to KNOW what is RIGHT and what is WRONG! You know, people are funny when it comes to certain aspects of their lives – especially whenever it comes to religion. For instance, we send our children to school to be taught that  $2+2=4$ , and we expect all of the teachers at school to teach the same thing, namely that  $2+2=4$ . However, we turn right around and send our children to Bible classes to be taught by Bible class teachers that  $2+2=5,6,7$ , or  $8$  – just take your pick. This is wrong, and we all know it.

We discipline our children when they lie to us, and many take away their weekly allowances when they lie. Yet we turn right around and give that same allowance and much more money besides to the preacher when he gets up in the pulpit and lies to us on Sunday by telling us things that the word of God does **not contain**, and that cannot save men's souls. Think about it! We have GOT to be CONSISTENT in our reasoning!

I read one time about an honest man who did what a lot of people ought to do. He asked a woman who was a member of the Church of Christ Scientist if he could become a Christian Scientist without accepting her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*. She said, "No." He next asked her if it was possible for him to follow the Bible and the Bible only and become a Christian and go to heaven when he died. She said, "Yes, a person could reject *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and accept the Bible alone and become a Christian and go to heaven when he died." This wonderful, serious, honest man came in contact next with a Catholic priest. He asked the priest this question, "Can I become a Catholic without accepting the Catholic Catechism?" The priest answered in the negative. Then he asked the priest this second question, "If I just follow the Douay New Testament and it alone can I be a Christian and enter heaven, if I don't become a Catholic?" The priest answered by taking the position that this honest, serious man couldn't understand the Bible without the Catechism, but he told the man that he could go to heaven without being a Catholic. That priest was certainly right when he said a man could go to heaven without being a Catholic. During the days of the apostles, people became Christians by the thousands and there was not one Catholic to be found anywhere upon the face of the earth. Back then a person could become a Christian, live a life of service to God, and die and

never become a Catholic and never even hear the word Catholic mentioned. Dear ones, I say this with love in my heart. A person should never become anything in religion that he can read nothing about in the Bible!

This wonderful gentleman next talked to a lady who was the wife of a preacher who preached for the Evangelical United Brethren Church. He told this preacher's wife that he had been reading a copy of the Discipline of the United Brethren Church and that he had also been reading the Bible. He asked her if he could become a member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church without subscribing to the Discipline of the United Brethren Church and take just the Bible and nothing but the Bible. She said he could not, and she further stated that if he would become a member and disagreed with the Discipline and caused any disturbance over the Discipline, out he would go. Then he asked her this question, "If I just try to follow the Bible and it alone, can I be a Christian and go to heaven if I do not become a member of the United Brethren Church?" She said, "Yes." I might add my comment to this by saying she was as right as any woman could be.

This wonderful inquiring man came in contact next with a Methodist preacher. He told the Methodist preacher that he had been reading the Methodist Discipline and also the Bible. He wanted to know if he could be a Methodist without subscribing to the Methodist Discipline and just take the Bible alone for what it says. The Methodist preacher answered, no. He further told the man that they had nothing else to control them but the Discipline. Then he asked the Methodist preacher that famous number two question, "Can I be a Christian if I just take the Bible and follow it alone, if I do not become a member of the Methodist church and have hope of going to heaven?" The Methodist preacher told him that he could.

Then our fine man came next to a Presbyterian preacher. He told him that he had been reading a copy of the Presbyterian Confession of Faith and also his Bible. He asked whether or not he could be a Presbyterian without subscribing to the Presbyterian Confession of Faith, if he took his Bible and followed it alone? The answer was "No". He then asked the preacher if he could be a Christian and have the hope of going to heaven, if he did not become a member of the Presbyterian Church. He answered, "Yes."

He next contacted a representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). He told the representative that he had a copy of the *Book of Mormon*. He told him that he had been reading it and his Bible. He asked could he become a member of the Latter-day Saints without subscribing to the *Book of Mormon*, if he would just take his Bible and follow it alone? He said, "No, he couldn't." Then he asked him if he could become a Christian and have the hope of heaven if he just followed the Bible and the Bible alone even though he did not join the Latter-day Saints. His answer was, "Yes, in some degree but not the highest."

Next our fine inquiring honest man came in contact with a gospel preacher who worked with the church of Christ. He told the preacher that he had been unable to find any creed or discipline for the church of Christ. He told the preacher that he had been reading his Bible. He asked the preacher if he could be a member of the church of Christ if he took the Bible alone and followed it. The answer was, "Yes." Then he asked the preacher if he just followed the Bible alone could he become a Christian and have the hope of going to heaven if he did not become a member of the church of Christ? The preacher answered by saying that if this man would follow the Bible and it alone it would make him a member of the church of Christ. This gospel preacher was right - whoever he was.

Friends, any preacher who tells you that you can't take the Bible and the Bible alone and follow it and become a Christian is just as wrong as wrong can be. He is an unsafe teacher of men. He is unfit as a preacher of God's word, and the sooner he quits preaching the better it will be for everybody, including himself.

We need to do like the man I just told you about, who went around questioning the different religious representatives. The Bible says in 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because **many false prophets** have gone out into the world." Jesus said in Matthew 7:15 "**Beware of false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." He didn't say beware of some spook in the graveyard on some dark night, but he said beware of **men**. Yes, and we ought to beware of all men who teach false doctrine.

The story is told, and whether it *actually* happened or not I am not sure, that a woman was going around from store to store begging for money to build a church building. She soon stopped at a grocery store to ask for money for her church. The man said, I will give you \$1,000 if you promise to write a sign over the door of your church that says, "This is the church of Christ". She said, "Sir, I am sorry, but I could not put such a sign upon our church." Then the man said, I will give you \$1,000 if you promise to write a sign over the door of your church that says, "This is not the church of Christ". She said that she could not do that either. She left without the \$1,000. What kind of church does a person represent that is **not** the church of Christ and at the same time **is** the church of Christ? I frankly confess that I don't know. It is pitiful that people go around begging money from people to build big false churches. There is always somebody trying to get something for nothing. We need more men like David. He said in 2 Samuel 24:24 "...nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing."

I heard a man on television inviting people to attend a denominational church in our area. Think, IF a person would not be allowed to attend that denominational church until the preacher first showed this church in the Bible they would never be allowed to attend, because he could not find it, and the reason he could not find it is because it is not in the

Bible. You and I have no business attending churches that are not in the Bible, and the quicker we learn this one lesson the better it will be for all of us. Dear ones, the word of God can save the souls of men, and this is the truth. Not because I said it but because it is taught clearly and plainly in your own Bible. Search it and see.

And, as I said in the beginning of this lesson, it is wrong to tell people you go your way and I go mine, because such teaching leaves the Lord out of it. This doctrine doesn't give the Lord any say-so at all. In fact, it leaves all of the decision up to us. We could stretch this doctrine of you go your way and I go mine out of proportion. We could go our way and believe that the word of God can't save men's souls or the name one wears in religion is not important or man doesn't have a spirit or a soul or there is no heaven or hell. Start believing like this and there would be no end to it. The best thing for all of us to do is lay aside **our ways** and accept **God's way**.

*Gailen E. Evans*