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The Infallible Way

Eugene S. Smith

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The
Infallible
Way



By

EUGENE S. SMITH

DALLAS, TEXAS

THE INFALLIBLE WAY

By EUGENE S. SMITH

This is an age in which men seek for security in all things. When a bill is paid we ask for a written receipt. When real estate is purchased we ask for a guarantee of title. If anything is in the least spurious or questionable we will have nothing to do with it. In all things of the world we follow this wise course and I believe that according to this standard we may and should seek the eternal security of our souls.

If someone were to stand before you today with two ten-dollar bills in his hand. If in explanation he showed that one was in some way questionable, while the other was genuine and so accepted by all, I am sure that if given your choice you would in all wisdom select the unquestionable one. Any other course would be foolishness in the sight of all men.

Therefore today as you "stand in the ways and see and inquire for the old paths wherein is the good way" (Jer. 6:16) you must of necessity accept that way which is infallibly safe. That way which is right and cannot be wrong. This infallibly safe way is "the good way" wherein you can find "rest for your souls."

It Is Not Man's Way

The first thing we must learn in our

search for this way is that it is not the way devised by man or group of men. God says, "the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). The way for which we seek is the way of God and His way is not according to the thoughts or plans of men for we read in His word, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8, 9).

The way of man, that is the way that seems right to his heart, is the way of foolishness and death for the wise writer of proverbs has said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25). In addition to this he has warned against trusting in our own hearts and following them by saying, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" (Prov. 28:26).

We doubt not that the way of man seems right to him for God has said, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2). However when we read the prophecy of Christ coming to redeem the world in Isaiah 53 we note that this necessity was laid upon him because man had walked in his own ways. Isaiah speaking the words of Jehovah said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have

turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). Therefore since following the ways of man brought condemnation and the need of redemption we cannot think that God would be pleased with us in following our own ways.

It is Not a Broad Way

In the second place we should remember that the way which is infallibly right is not a broad way. Some have thought that any way would surely do if many people walked in it. To some, the way of the majority is the chosen way and wherever the greatest crowd is found they will be found. This is not a safe course to follow in selecting our way.

Christ said, "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby" (Matt. 7:13). Surely this should be enough, for the Lord has spoken, but when we remember that of more than six hundred thousand men of Israel, only two reached Canaan; of all the world in Noah's day, only eight were righteous enough to be saved and that in all of Sodom, only three were found to be rescued, we must indeed realize that it is an unsafe policy to walk in the way of the majority.

It Is Not a Multitude of Ways

Remember that Jeremiah said, "the

good way" and further he prophesied of there being "one way" saying, "And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever" (Jer. 32:38, 39). The way which Jehovah has given is "one way" and if we would attempt to climb up by other ways Jesus has labeled us as thieves and robbers. His words should be contemplated seriously in these days of "many ways" for he said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber" (John 10:1).

When the disciple, Thomas, asked the question, "how know we the way?" (John 14:5) he recognized and confessed that there was but one way. Jesus emphasized this all the more in the answer that he gave for he said, "I am the way" (John 14:6). When we can get the consent of our minds to such an idea as there being many Christs or saviours for the world then may we suppose that there are a multitude of ways that are right before the Lord.

It Is The Way Of The Word

Jesus is the word of God manifest in the flesh. "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The Word of God was revealed in that day in the flesh and is perpetuated for us today in that book we call the Bible.

The word of God as revealed to us in that book constitutes an infallible way that is right, forever right, and can never be wrong.

The maiden having the "spirit of divination" (Acts 16:16) cried out as she followed Paul and Silas, ministers of the word, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim unto you the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17). Therefore in the words and lives of these men and those who received their teaching we can find, "the way," the infallibly safe way, the way that is right and cannot be wrong.

In I Peter 2:15 the apostle speaks of "the right way" as being forsaken by some of his day. This "right way" he refers to as "the way of truth" (I Pet. 2:2). Therefore in the word of truth, in the Bible, we have "right way" that can never, under any circumstances be wrong. Here is revealed "the way of holiness" which leads us safely home to God.

The Bible Is God's Word

The Bible is that "scripture inspired of God" (I Tim. 3:16). These words came not "by will of man; but men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Pet. 1:21). In this book we have the writings of men in whom "the Spirit of Christ, which was in them did point unto, when it testified" (I Pet. 1:11). The Bible is the work of men who could in truth say as David, "The Spirit of Jehovah spake by me,

and his word was upon my tongue" (II Sam. 23:2). In this book which we call the Bible we find the words which "he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets that have been from of old" (Luke 1:70). More could be added to this thought but enough has been said for us to accept the Bible as inspired of God and therefore the guide book for "the way of life."

However, there are some who will say, "You may be right but on the other hand we do not believe the Bible is inspired of God." They would therefore walk in a way that seems good to them rather than the Bible way for to them the Bible is not inspired. The question before you today is: Which of these ways will you accept? Will you walk in the Bible way or in the way of men who reject the Bible as the word of God?

Friend of mine, it is better to be safe than sorry. Even those argue that the Bible is not inspired admit that it is a good book and instructs one in a life of goodness. Therefore if they should prove to be right you have lost nothing in following the Bible. In following it you have lived a life that all men must admit is of the highest order.

But consider this. If the Bible is right and those who deny it are wrong, in following it you gain eternal life in heaven but in rejecting it you must suffer eternally the consequences. There is everything to gain and nothing to

lose in following the Bible and recognizing it as the Inspired Word of God, the way of life, the infallible way that is right and can never be wrong. You will always be safe and can never be sorry in following it.

The Bible Commands Faith

“Without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that seek him” (Heb. 11:6). Christ said, “Ye believe in God, believe also in me” (John 14:1). From these and many other scriptures it is evident that only those who have faith in God and Christ are walking the Bible way, the infallible way that is right and cannot be wrong.

However, we again find some who think such faith is non-essential and that all men are to be saved regardless of belief or unbelief. These are generally termed “Universalists.” Their idea is that God is good and will save anyone and everyone who lives in the earth. Many passages, of course, come readily to mind that would forever contradict this idea. There is to be a separation of the righteous and the wicked. None who believe in God and accept the Bible as his word can or will deny this and therefore we do not argue that question at this time.

But consider this. Those who make such claims as mentioned freely admit that believers will be saved along with

all the rest. If they should be right and the Bible wrong the believer would be safe and receive every blessing that others receive. However if they are wrong, and they surely are, and the Bible is right, what then? The Bible being right only the believers will be saved as others are condemned, for eternity. There is everything to gain and nothing to lose in following the Bible, in walking the way that is infallibly safe, that is right and cannot be wrong. It is better to be safe than sorry.

The Bible Commands Repentance

Every believer is commanded to repent. Christ said, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Paul, when preaching at Athens, by the Spirit of God said, "The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent" (Acts 17:30). On the day of Pentecost Peter preached the gospel (good news) of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. As this was heard it was believed and the believers cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? When the question was asked Peter unhesitatingly replied, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

— Christ first and Paul and Peter by

the Spirit of Christ commanded all believers to repent. It is therefore a part of "the way of salvation." No one can walk in that way without believing and repenting of their sins. It is the Bible way, the infallible way that is right and cannot be wrong.

But consider this. There are some who say that repentance is unnecessary and that man can be saved without it. All such however will agree that there is no harm in repenting. There can be found none to say that it is wrong to cease doing the things that are evil in the sight of God. If, therefore, those who say you need not repent are right it will still be all right to repent. No blessing is lost by ceasing to do evil. Those who repent and those who do not will stand alike if there be no value to repentance. But if those who thus teach are wrong and the Bible is right, and it surely is, what then? Those who repent may secure the blessing of God but those who do not must suffer eternally for their error. It is better to be safe than sorry. We should accept the Bible way regardless of the commandments of men. Walk in the Bible way for it is the infallible way, the way that is right and cannot be wrong.

The Bible Commands Confession

Every penitent believer should confess his faith in Christ. Christ said, "Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven"

(Matt. 10:32). Paul said, "Every tongue shall confess to God" (Rom. 14:11). For some this confession will come too late to bring God's blessing and it is therefore important that we confess Him now while He is interceding at the right hand of the Father in heaven. In that way we can obtain the blessings of the Father and of the Son.

However we again find some who think obedience to this commandment is unnecessary. They think that confession of sin or of anything that suits them will serve as well as a confession of Christ. However these will agree that there is no evil in confessing faith in Christ as the man did in Acts 8:37 saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." This, all agree, is a Bible command and to do it is to follow a Bible example. Nothing evil, they say, can ever come from this.

Now consider this. If they be right and this confession is unnecessary, which cannot be, nothing can be lost in making it. However if the Bible be right, and it is, everything is to be gained by making this confession and nothing is to be gained by refusing to make it. Therefore the safe way is to follow the Bible, the infallibly safe way, the way that is right and cannot be wrong. It is better to be safe than sorry.

The Bible Commands Baptism

Christ said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:

16). Peter said, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, unto the remission of your sins" (Acts 2:38). Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, "arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on his name" (Acts 22:16). Paul said, "all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death" (Rom. 6:3).

From these scriptures it is apparent to all that baptism is a part of "the way of salvation" and without it none can be saved. However we find many again who say that it is a non-essential and that one can be saved before and without baptism. Which way do we accept, the Bible way or the way of men?

But consider this. Those who say that baptism doth not save are in direct contradiction to God's word for in I Peter 3:21 we read that it doth save. However just suppose that they are right and it has nothing to do with salvation. Is there any that will say that it is evil? It is one of God's commandments and none will say that we sin in being baptized. Therefore if they were right, which they are not, those who are baptized would be as safe as those who did not. However if it is essential, and it must be for God's word so teaches it, then all who comply with God's command and walk the Bible way will be safe but all others must be sorry for eternity when their sorrow cannot avail.

Let us walk the infallibly safe way which all agree is acceptable and which is so right that it can never be wrong.

Bible Baptism Is A Burial

Paul says by the Spirit of God, "Buried therefore with him through baptism into death" (Rom. 6:4). Then again in Col. 2:12 he says, "buried with him in baptism, wherein ye were also raised with him through faith in the operation of God, who raised him from the dead." There can be no argument with God's word and none will contradict the teaching of these verses which clearly set forth baptism as a burial.

However, there are some who say that some other way will do as well and would substitute their way for God's way. But consider this. Those who think something other than a burial is baptism will nevertheless accept a burial as valid baptism. They acknowledge that the Bible way is safe. Now if they should prove to be right, which they will not, still those who follow God's way will be safe and will have every blessing that those receive who walk in other ways.

However as the Bible is right and there is but one way that is acceptable to God we can see that those who accept some substitute for "buried in baptism" are sure to be sorry in the end. It is better to be safe than sorry so let us follow the infallibly right way;

follow God's way and be sure to be in "the way of salvation." God's way is infallibly safe and can never be wrong.

The Bible Commands a New Life

Those buried with Christ in baptism are to be raised "so we also might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4). The apostle Peter says, "but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living" (I Pet. 1:15). This is enough to show that God calls for purity and consecration of life in his children. However there are some who think they can live any way and offer anything as worship to God.

But consider this. Even these admit that it is right and safe to follow the Bible and "live Godly in Christ Jesus." Therefore we should be sure to follow the Bible way for those who deny it admit that it is a safe way. If they should prove right all who follow the Bible way will be as acceptable as those who do not. However if they prove wrong, and they surely will, then they are lost for eternity while those who follow God's word, the infallibly safe way are right and can never be wrong. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Walk In God's Way

The church of Christ, established by him, owned by him and governed by him is eternally bound to follow this infallibly safe way. You are invited to come with us in the way of the Lord

and in following his word to be eternally safe. All who comply with God's commandments of today as they have been spoken by the Christ are members of that church and none others are. We, as Christians, earnestly desiring to do the will of God invite and urge you to come and walk this Bible way with us. We ask you only to submit to God, walk in his way, the way that is infallibly safe and can never be wrong that you may be safe, not sorry.

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