

“I DON'T BELIEVE IN  
YOUR WAY.”



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WAY."

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SO said a respectable fatherly-looking old man in the town of B——, in England.

I had taken a handful of tracts and gone out to visit in the district where I lived, to speak of Jesus, and to invite the perishing ones to bear the story of his matchless love to sinners.

On knocking at one door, my fatherly-looking friend presented himself. I asked him kindly if he would accept of a tract. He said "No, I don't believe in your way." I said "No, I don't believe in my own way."

My old friend stared at me as if I had been an apparition from the spirit world. I remained silent

until the silence became painful. My friend was bewildered. I said "I did believe in my own way for the first twenty years of my life, and I'll tell you what my own way was. I was well brought up by Christian parents, went regularly to church from my infancy, and joined the church when I became old enough; I often read my Bible and said my prayers; I never did any one any harm; I always paid my way—in short, I was *doing my best*."

"Well," said my friend, "I think that was a very good way."

"Yes," I replied, "I thought so too; but I found it was not *God's way*. I found it written in God's word, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God' (John iii. 3). 'He that believeth not is condemned already' (verse 18); 'He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God

abideth on him" (verse 36). 'He that believeth not shall be damned' (Mark xvi. 16). 'Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt; but to him that worketh not, but *believeth* on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness' (Romans iv. 4, 5). I found my way was in direct opposition to *God's way*. I was on the *doing line*, and that is the down line to dark damnation." "By the deeds of the law there shall be no flesh justified in his sight" (Romans iii. 20.)

My friend believed in a salvation without faith and a religion without Christ. He would not simply receive it as the gift of God by faith, who says, "look unto Me and be ye saved" (Isaiah xlv. 22).

Do you believe in your own way or in God's way? Which? God's testimony of us is that "we have turned every one to his own way"

(Isaiah liii. 6). That is the broad way (Matthew vii. 13), and it leads to destruction just as surely as God has said it. Your way may *seem* right. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of death (Proverbs xiv. 12). Jesus says, "*I am the way*" (John xiv. 6). "He *that hath* the Son *hath* life; and he *that hath not* the Son of God *hath not* life" (1 John v. 12).

Now, I think I hear you say—"But you know I have been well brought up, and I know my Bible well."

Yes; but that is just your own way. You are too far up to take Christ, as a lost perishing sinner; but, like little Zaccheus, you must *come down*. Nicodemus was well brought up; but with all his upbringing, he was going to hell, right to hell. Up-bringing will prove but a rotten twig to hold on to for

salvation, "for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved" (Acts iv. 12) but the "name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (verse 10). Jesus says, "*I am the way.*" But you say, "I am not an unbeliever. I believe the Bible, and have always believed in Christ."

"Then you are saved?"

"Oh no, I cannot say that—it would be great presumption in me to say that."

But God says it ; and whether is it more presumptuous to take God at His word or *make Him a liar?* (I John v. 10). It is one thing to believe that Christ came into the world more than eighteen hundred years ago, and died to save sinners ; it is quite another thing, as a lost sinner, to believe on Him as my personal Saviour. I may believe that my dinner is on the table waiting for me ; but that will not

satisfy me—I must really partake or die. So it is not believing *about* Christ, but believing *on* Him, “and he that believeth on the Son *hath everlasting life*” (John iii. 36). Mark the word *h-a-t-h* “hath everlasting life.” God says so.

But you say, “I am a member of the Church.” Very good, if you are saved; but if you are unconverted, your taking the sacrament is one of the blackest sins under heaven. It is eating and drinking judgment to yourself (1 Cor. xi. 29). Church-membership is not Christ. Jesus says, “*I am the way.*”

At the close of a gospel meeting lately I was asked to speak to an anxious woman. When I got through the many that were there to where she was sitting, she grasped me by the hand, and with streaming eyes, and choking with emotion, she said, “Oh sir, I have been a member of the Church for

twenty-four years, and I never knew till to-night that I am a lost sinner;" and as she buried her face in her handkerchief, she sobbed out, "O what must I do to be saved?"

I pointed her to the Lamb of God, "who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter ii. 24). She saw that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. v. 8). She believed and lived. The smile of heaven was on her face, her yet undried tears sparkled under the Sun of Righteousness like the dew under the morning sun. I left her rejoicing in the Lord. This is God's way of saving sinners.

Have done with your own way, your own doing, your upbringing, and your religiousness. None of these will save—all put together cannot save you. Jesus says, "I AM THE WAY."

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