

GOD'S WORD

GOD'S BLESSING

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Is God's Blessing Vindication - Or is it Just Love?
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ACTUALLY, WHAT we should be asking is, "What does the Bible tell us that God wants?" "Is what I am doing Scriptural?" It is the purpose of this pamphlet to show that the work or blessing of God is not necessarily an indication of Divine approval! Unfortunately, too many people and ministries claim Divine approval because of the blessings they (individuals or ministries) are experiencing. Some are engaged in outright sin; some merely do not live in the Spirit, but God uses them as there is no perfect tool, no perfect individual (or ministry?) in existence. Whatever the situation, many sinful individuals and institutions claim Divine sanction because they see upon themselves the Hand of God, blessing and multiplying them, and because of this *supposed* Divine *approval* adamantly refuse to accept or are unable to see their need for correction or repentance. They do not realize that God blesses because His Work on earth must necessarily be accomplished through sinful and imperfect individuals and organizations, ...and because God is love, despite our disobedience:

But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Eph. 2:4-5

Any idea is ridiculous that suggests that, simply, "Because a bolt of lightning hasn't struck me from heaven, I am in the will of God," or that, "Because God is glorifying Himself in, through, or around me, I must necessarily be pleasing Him." As it is the purpose of everything in existence to bring glory to God, glory will naturally come to Him:

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

Isa.43:11

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.

Rev.4:11

So God's Name always is going to be glorified, if not by the actions of people, holy or otherwise, by very creation itself!

"...I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

Luke 19:40

Indeed, we see in Scripture that even sin can do the will of God or glorify Him:

Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that My fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:19

Therefore, the fact that something brings God glory is in no way an indication of inherent worth, of virtue, nor of God's pleasure. Does this ability of some sin to glorify God justify the sin?

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Rom. 6:1-2

Disobedience to God is not to be committed for the supposed sake of God's glory any more than the murders committed by the Nazis for the sake of experiment and scientific observation were justified for those reasons, despite whatever positive benefits may have been attained. The end definitely does not justify the means. Yes, even the preaching of God's Word can be completely sinful and full of errors and lies, yet bring God glory, simply because Scripture itself possesses inherent virtue:

So shall My Word be that goeth forth out of My Mouth: it shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isa. 55:11

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife: and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Phil. 1:15-18

Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high.

Isa. 58:4

Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins. 3 But thou, O Lord, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

Jeremiah 12:2-3

Just like preaching, therefore, Spiritual, "pursuit and fruit," may not be for Godly reasons nor be by Spiritual guidelines, but, as these verses explain, we can glorify God for the positive results, while deploring either the motive or method. And we are to glorify God for the results while striving to correct, or to have the preaching or Spiritual pursuit corrected. We can also see that God uses, "whatever is at hand," not just what or who is holy or within His Will.

And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, 50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. 51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation.

John 1:49-51

Obviously, Caiaphas, wanting to kill Christ, was neither a man of God, nor in God's will. God used him, not because he was holy, nor because his actions pleased God, but because he was the tool best situated at that point in time for the accomplishment of God's will, and because he was in the *position* of a man of God. While Caiaphas' action accomplished God's will, it was not pleasing to God- and the action itself was damnable! We can therefore see that the blessing or use by God of a person, his actions, or a ministry is in no way a vindication of, nor statement of holiness of that person, action, or ministry. God uses WHATEVER is at hand; He often couldn't care less who (at least not as much as we do!)

And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass ...

Num. 22:28

God is going to be glorified, by whatever vehicle is available or necessary to be used, even if it is itself sinful or sinning.

Can enthusiasm or love for God cover a multitude of sins, when the Word of God is present to correct? God, speaking through Paul certainly doesn't accept that kind of logic:

For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Romans 10:3

God has given us instruction in what is and isn't truth; it is now merely a matter of opening the Word of God... and then of obeying Him:

Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.

John 5:39

And ye shall seek Me, and find Me, when ye shall search for Me with all your heart.

Jer. 29:13

If ye love me, keep My commandments.

John 14:15

So then, how can we be sure that we ourselves, a person, an action, or a ministry is in the will of God?

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word.

Psalms 119:9

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Psalms 19:7-13

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. 2 Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with the whole heart. 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in His ways. 4 Thou hast commanded us to keep Thy precepts diligently. 5 O that my ways were directed to keep Thy statutes! 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all Thy commandments. 7 I will praise Thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned Thy righteous judgments. 8 I will keep Thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. 10 With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy commandments. 11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

Psalms 119:1-11

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

II Tim. 3:16