

SOME WHO MISPLACED THEIR LOVE

John Edwards

Love is one of the great themes of the Bible. Did you know love can be misplaced? Consider some who put love in the wrong place.

SOLOMON. King Solomon misplaced his love when he “...loved many strange women...” and “...clave unto these in love”. Misplaced love resulted in misplaced allegiance. “...his wives turned away his heart...and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God...” (1 Ki. 11:1-4).

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL. God’s people in ancient times misplaced their love when Jeremiah said, “A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so...” (Jer. 5:30-31). Hosea said of the children of Israel, “...their abominations were according as they loved” (Hosea 9:10). Misplaced love brought about the downfall of Israel!

THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES. In the Mountain Sermon the Lord said, “And when thou prayest, thou shalt

not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be seen of men....” (Mt. 6:5). Addressing the multitude concerning the scribes and Pharisees Jesus declared, “But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi” (Mt. 23:5-7). These religious leaders misplaced their love when they loved to be seen of men!

CHIEF RULERS. It is written in John 12:42-43, “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” Love was misplaced when chief rulers loved the praise of men more than the praise of God! This passage indicates more than faith alone to please God!

DEMAS. John wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 Jn. 2:15). Demas misplaced his love when he loved this world!

Paul wrote Timothy, “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...” (2 Tim. 4:10).

BALAAM. Peter penned, “Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man’s voice forbad the madness of the prophet” (2 Pet. 2:15-16). Jude mentioned those who “...ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward...” in Jude 11. This reaches back to Numbers 21-25 when Balak, king of Moab, hired Balaam to curse Israel. Through the counsel of Balaam, Israel was caused to commit trespass (Num. 31:16).

DIOTREPHESES. John stated, “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not” (3 Jn. 9). When Diotrephes loved to have the preeminence, his love was misplaced! Christ has the preeminence in the church. “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” (Col. 1:18).

Is your love properly placed?

CHOOSING THE RIGHT WAY

John Edwards

Have you ever been at a crossroads, not knowing which way to go? Jesus, in the New Testament, teaches us to choose the right way (Mt. 7:13-14).

THE WAY OF LIFE OR THE WAY OF DEATH. Jeremiah 21:8, “*And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.*”

THE WAY OF GOD’S COMMANDMENTS OR THE WAY OF TRANSGRESSORS. Psalm 119:32-33, “*I will run the way of thy commandments... the way of thy statutes....*” Proverbs 13:15, “*...the way of transgressors is hard.*”

THE WAY OF UNDERSTANDING OR THE WAY OF A FOOL. Isaiah 40:14, “*...the way of understanding*”. Proverbs 12:15, “*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...*”

THE WAY OF GOOD OR THE WAY OF EVIL. Proverbs 2:20, “*That thou mayest walk in*

the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.” Proverbs 2:12, “*To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things.*”

THE WAY OF TRUTH OR THE WAY OF LYING. 2 Peter 2:2, “*And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*” Psalm 119:29, “*Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.*”

THE WAY OF WISDOM OR THE WAY OF FOLLY. Proverbs 4:11, “*I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.*” Psalm 49:13, “*This their way is their folly...*”

THE WAY OF SALVATION OR THE WAY OF SINNERS. Acts 16:17, “*The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.*” Psalm 1:1, “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*”

THE NARROW WAY OR THE BROAD WAY. Matthew 7:14, “*...narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life...*” Matthew 7:13, “*...broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction...*” The narrow way is the way of the “few”, while the way of “many” is the broad way!

The way we should choose is also known as “*the right way*” (2 Pet. 2:15), “*the way everlasting*” (Ps. 139:24), “*the way of righteousness*” (Prov. 16:31), “*the way of holiness*” (Is. 35:8), “*the way of peace*” (Is. 59:8), “*the good way*” (Jer. 6:16), “*the way of God*” (Acts 18:26), “*the new and living way*” (Heb. 10:10). This way is made possible through Christ who said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (Jn. 14:6).

May we choose the right way!

“...choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Josh. 24:15).

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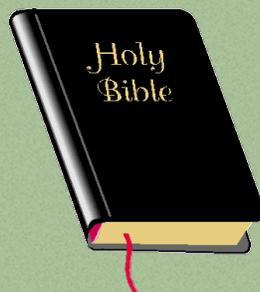
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