

# Rejecting the Simple

by BOB CASEY, preacher  
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In Isaiah 35:8, it reads, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

All of us are wayfarers upon the thing called "life" and one day we will finish our journey here. It depends on us to make a successful journey, or we may not make it successful, but we will decide that outcome. The Lord invites all of mankind to come to him. Matthew 11:25-30, He wants to give us rest and peace of mind on this wayfaring road. Then, he also says, "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light (Verse 30)."

In nearly a half century of attempted preaching, I have heard many strange things concerning the ability to travel the road of life. For instance, a fellow who asked me directions about how to get on this road, expected from me, claiming to be a preacher, "How do I get my life in order to go to Heaven?" I used the book called the New Testament to give him the full details of his investigation. I mentioned John 3:16, 17, 18, to him for starters; that God loved him and showed it by sacrificing his only begotten son as the atonement for our sins. Then, I challenged him to commit himself by fully believing in Jesus as his Saviour. And then, realizing that we all have sinned, we needed to repent of all our past sins and walk a different way of life. Then, I went on to explain that we are to make a public confession of our belief in Jesus (Matthew 10:32-33). Since we extended this faith to become married to Christ, it seems like the logical thing to do (Romans 7:4). Then I mentioned that to solidify our commitment that we were to be baptized in enough water to bury us, we could then and only then, rise to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4) with our sins all remitted, cleansed by his blood. Then, the Lord himself would add us to his church, and his only.

And then, a strange thing happened, he suddenly looked and me and said, "Is that all there is to it?" To which I added, "This is what our Lord said." Then, he responded and said, "This is the foolish thing I have ever heard. There has to be more to it than that!" Then, he turned and went away.

This left me to ponder, I don't know what else he had been taught, but whatever it was, would never lead him to salvation that he seemed to have wanted. So, what else is a preacher to do? Then, I remembered what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:18, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." In Romans 1:16, Paul says the gospel is "the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Then, I remembered what the smartest man who ever lived (besides Jesus) said in Proverbs 1:32, after giving a discourse on righteousness, said about God's plan, "For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

So, yes, our Lord says that his plan for mass redemption is so simple that a foolish man would not enter therein. In Psalms 2:1 and in Acts 4:25, it is written, "Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?"

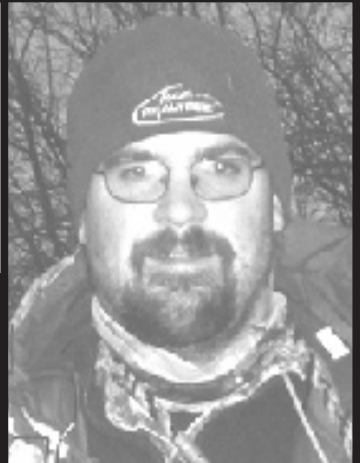
So, why do some turn away and reject the simple plan of Christ to save them? First, I suspect that they have help from Satan and his helpers. A five-minute reading of 2 Corinthians 11:12-15 reveals a clear cut picture of the denominational world today. If not, why not? In closing, Paul writes a clear warning to the early church in 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. The main focus of these words are: that only the true, believing, committed, baptized believer will ever have a love for all the truth of the Gospel that will lead them to God one day. I hope you will attend with us at Cornerstone and hear the Gospel in its fullness; question our belief. We invite you to do this. Has anyone else given you this opportunity?

Call us at 1-859-369-4165 or visit at 70 Bond Street, West Irvine.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

## Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by Jay Bicknell  
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# Sharing Hope

I am going to keep this column short and to the point. The world is becoming a cesspool. It's spiraling out of control; a divided country, school shootings, drugs, abortion.

The school shooting got me to thinking back to my high school days. Most of us guys had our shotguns behind the seat of our trucks in the school parking lot. We couldn't wait for the last bell to ring. We would jump in the truck and head hunting. It was about shooting critters not each other.

I can remember in English class I got into a fight with a good friend. Fists were swinging and desks were flying. Once it got broke up, we were friends by the time we made it to the office. We never once thought about shooting each other. We worked through our differences.

What has happened? Where did we take a wrong turn?

A lot of people will disagree with me! I know where things went wrong. It went wrong when God was kicked out of schools. Kicked out of the family,

kicked out of work, kicked out of the country. I believe we had a hedge of protection when we were a Godly nation. That protection is gone now.

Instead of turning towards God we now turn towards our phone. We Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram instead of praying, reading, and studying scripture. There is no problem too big for God to handle. So, look away from social media and look up. All the answers can be found in God. Who or what is your master?

There is Hope in Jesus. I know Him and knowing Him gives me Peace. The world needs Jesus. I see people have become hopelessly addicted to the things of this world. If you know Jesus, then share Him. Share His hope. Let your light shine, don't keep it hid. The world needs the Hope of Jesus. It starts with sharing to one person at a time. Everyone needs Jesus.

Matthew 5:16  
"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

### seeds of Hope



The word "righteous" in Scripture carries with it the idea of meeting God's standards of doing what is right in the sight of God - being obedient to Him and being just and fair to others. If the "righteous are to flourish like palm trees" what does that mean?

1. Palm trees grow straight up - always looking upward to heaven for light and nourishment. Likewise the Christian looks to God to find His will for their life.

2. Each and every part of a palm tree is useful. The leaves not only provide shelter from the elements but the tree itself has many nourishing and medicinal qualities. The Christian is expected to give life and hope and nourishment to others.

3. Palm trees are not affected by drought. A palm tree is not affected by the weather and can survive nearly every surface injury. The Christian rooted in Christ draws his strength and well-being from God.

4. The palm tree is an evergreen tree because it draws its life flow within its being, keeping it fresh.

5. The palm tree cannot be grafted into any other tree because it has its own unique identity. Christians have one Master and cannot be grafted to any other identity.

6. Palm trees are an emblem of victory. This was seen when Jesus entered triumphantly into Jerusalem.

7. Palm trees always show a place where water can be found. Christians find their "living water" in Christ who can quench their thirst.

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## BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

ROMANS 8:32-33

He **who** did not **spare** his **own Son**, but **gave** him up **for** us **all**—how **will** he **not** also, **along** with him, **graciously** give us all **things**? Who will **bring** any **charge** against **those** whom God **has chosen**? It is **God** who **justifies**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. COLOSSIANS 2:13,14



Cloisters of Essen Minster, Essen, Germany

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### THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



When Manasseh was in affliction, he implored the Lord, the God of his fathers, and humbled himself greatly in prayer. The Lord received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

Detail of "Prayer of Manasseh" (1929) by Hester Sainsbury

2 CHRONICLES 33: 12, 13

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Jude in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Acts 17, at what church was Paul accused of turning the world upside down? Antioch, Smyrna, Thessalonica, Galatia

3. How many days did it take Nehemiah to complete the wall around Jerusalem? 6,

52, 100, 1000

4. From Genesis 3:15, the snake is supposed to strike at what part of man? Throat, Hand, Heel, Eyes

5. Some were known by more than one name; what was Thomas' other name? Andrew, Didymus, Caleb, Zimri

6. From Revelation 12, what angel fights against Satan? Gabriel, Angel of the Lord, Cherubim, Michael

Answers on bottom of Page 9

Now available by Wilson Casey!  
2017 Bible Trivia box calendar loaded with daily teasers from TouchPointPress.com

## Gamaliel's Counsel (Acts 5:35-39)

And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men. 36For before these days rose up Theudas, boasting himself to be somebody; to whom a number of men, about four hundred, joined themselves: who was slain; and all, as many as obeyed him, were scattered, and brought to nought. 37After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed. 38And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: 39But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.

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1. Delude; 2. Suspect;  
3. Source; 4. Drone

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