

## LAW AND GRACE

All men are born with a moral consciousness—even the most corrupt group has certain standards of right and wrong that reflect their value system (e.g. the Mafia, and Manson's hippie commune). And every man who ever lived in the world falls short <sup>RVW</sup> of his own value system ~~man~~. This is God's revelation of conscious ~~truth~~ <sup>id</sup> which is given to every man and is the first of his three revelations of law.

The second revelation is the law of Moses which was given to the nation of Israel, and the third law is the law of the New Testament, which was given on the Sermon on the mount and in the teachings of Jesus, where he set forth the righteous requirements of God.

Every man who ever lived makes a response to these revelations of God's law, because either consciously or unconsciously he sees that it is impossible for him to come up to God's standards. His responses can be put in one of two categories which we will call Plan A and Plan B.

Plan A has three options for man. The first is when he goes into open moral rebellion, declaring that there is no God and if there is one--no one can know Him; there is no judgement, no hell, nothing. This is <sup>present</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>insight into</sup> reason why so many intellectuals so mishandle the Bible. You can ~~bring~~ <sup>present</sup> a new <sup>insight into</sup> fact of history to an intellectual and he will look at it with objectivity because if it is true it will have no particular effect on him. But, if the Bible is true, a man has to humble himself, receive Christ into his life and make a whole new way of life. What is ~~the~~ <sup>the intellectual's</sup> way out? TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE.

The second option in Plan A is for man to head into human righteousness. He concentrates on the idea that he is better than most of the people around him and reasons that on this basis he is a good and moral person. His creed; "Never look at God". This type of a man only looks around himself for his own standards. Many of our churches are headed into this option. Their whole creed is good works, social involvement and no basis for their theology except the society in which they operate. An example of this is situation ethics resulting in "New Morality".

All men are born with a moral consciousness—even the most corrupt—even the most  
 gain standards of right and wrong that reflect their value system (see the Bible  
 and Darwin's theory of evolution). And every man has been given a conscience (see  
 about of his own value system. This is God's revelation of conscience that is  
 which is given to every man and is the first of the two revelations. The  
 The second revelation is the law of Moses which was given to the nation of Israel,  
 and the third law is the law of the New Testament, which was given to the church  
 the world and to the teaching of Jesus, where he set forth the righteous requirements  
 of God.

Every man who ever lived makes a response to these revelations of God's law, but  
 cause either consciously or unconsciously he sees that it is impossible for him to come  
 up to God's standards. His response can be put in one of two categories which we will  
 call Plan A and Plan B.

Plan A has three options or ways. The first is when he goes into open moral re-  
 bellion, believing that there is no God and if there is one—no one can know Him;  
 there is no judgment, no hell, nothing. This is one reason why so many intellectuals do  
 what the Bible. You can ~~see~~ <sup>insight into</sup> a new <sup>present</sup> of history to an intellectual and he  
 will look at it with objectivity because if it is true it will have no particular ef-  
 fect on him. But, if the Bible is true, a man has to make himself receptive to Christ  
 into his life and make a whole new way of life. What is ~~the~~ <sup>the intellectual's</sup> way out TO MAKE SURE  
 THAT THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE.

The second option in Plan A is for man to head into human righteousness, the con-  
 cept on the idea that he is better than most of the people around him and  
 reason that on this basis he is a good and moral person. His creed: "I never look at  
 God". This type of a man only looks around himself for his own standards, many of our  
 churches are headed into this option. Their whole creed is good works, social in-  
 volvement and no basis for their theology except the society in which they operate.  
 An example of this is a situation ethics resulting in "New Moralities".

GR2

oiding that he is not really totally sinful and that he can do something for God. This leads to legalism where man says he can keep the laws of God and base his approach to God, not on faith, but on his own works and his own efforts. This move him into traditionalism which is realizing that he can't keep God's rules completely, so he selects the keepable laws and adds his own religious tradition to them. This leads to exclusiveness or "religious righteousness", like the Pharisees. (In other words, this is our church; here are the rules--if you keep all our rules, you are God's man. GOD DID NOT SAY THAT!) These are the three options of plan A, and the tragedy is that as long as man responds that way, it's a "bum-trap", and he ends up in hell.

Plan B is the response that is God's plan for man. God is perfect, and man is imperfect; God says that only the perfect can be in his kingdom, so he condemns ALL the sins of man <sup>through</sup> ONE perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ. Plan B begins with the righteous condemnation, not of a sinner, but of a saviour. God cannot <sup>or</sup> perform an unrighteous act. What made this a righteous act was not that Christ had sinned (because he really didn't) but Christ received all of our sins at the cross, and at that time God judged our sins on Him. Therefore, Christ's sacrifice on the Cross is God's revelation of Grace, And the way of forgiveness for man.

The response of the one who believes God's revelation of that sacrifice is twofold: first, He trusts God, believing in the efficiency (complete truth) of the sacrifice, and second, he accepts it. As a result, he is "born again", or, to rephrase it, he is seen perfect in God's eyes, and has eternal life with him. The apostle John puts it simply when he said, "For God so loved the world, that ~~he~~ gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life". (John 3:16) Plan B's only rule: believe the Father, and accept what God the Son did.

When you really see how much God loves you, you'll respond in love. You cannot love God without faith. Faith is believing that God and his word is trustworthy. So faith in Christ's sacrifice brings us to salvation and eternal life; it makes God loveable

...that he is not really totally blind and that he can be healed. For God,  
 This leads to legalism where man says he can keep the law of God and have his ap-  
 proach to God, not on faith, but on his own works and his own efforts. This leads him  
 into fatalism which is realizing that he can't keep God's law perfectly, and  
 so he rejects the keeping of laws and puts his own religious tradition to them. This  
 leads to exclusiveness or "religious righteousness", like the Pharisees. In other  
 words, this is our country here are the rules--it you keep all our rules, you are  
 God's man. GOD DID NOT SAY THAT! Those are the three options of Plan A, and the dis-  
 verty is that as long as man responds that way, it's a "dead-end", and he ends up  
 in hell.

Plan B is the response that is God's plan for man. God is perfect, and man is im-  
 perfect; God says that only the perfect can be in his kingdom, so he condemns and  
 the sin of man. <sup>Heavenly</sup> Plan B begins with the right-  
 eous condemnation, not of a sinner, but of a savior. God cannot condemn an unrighteous  
 act. What made this a righteous act was not that Christ had sinned (because he really  
 didn't) but Christ received all of our sins at the cross, and at that time God judged  
 our sins on him. Therefore, Christ's sacrifice on the Cross is God's revelation of  
 grace, and the way of forgiveness for man.

The response of the one who believes God's revelation of that sacrifice is two-  
 fold: first, he trusts God, believing in the efficacy (complete truth) of the an-  
 onition, and second, he accepts it. As a result, he is "born again", or, to re-  
 phrase it, he is seen perfect in God's eyes, and has eternal life with him. The apostle  
 John puts it simply when he said, "For God so loved the world, that who gave his only  
 begotten son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting  
 life". (John 3:16) Plan B's only rule: believe the Father, and accept what God has  
 said.

When you really see how much God loves you, you'll respond in love. You cannot love  
 God without faith. Faith is believing that God and His word is trustworthy. So faith  
 in Christ's sacrifice brings us to salvation and eternal life; it makes God loveable

page three

God's love as we see ourselves loved and accepted by him, and in turn, we have for the rest of the members of the body of Christ, and love for the whole human race. It is Christ's love which begins to operate in our lives. If we have love without faith in Christ we produce a self-righteous love, limited by man's imperfections and leading to chaos and destruction. Faith, which doesn't produce love is also worthless. It results in self-righteousness, legalism or <sup>d</sup>ead orthodoxy.

What are the results of Plan B besides complete acceptance by God?

1. Absolute righteousness which is perfect: it is the perfection of Christ which everyone must have to come to God.
2. Christian perfection which believers can have in their own lives, not their own perfect righteousness but ~~where~~ <sup>by</sup> they allow <sup>ing</sup> the Holy Spirit to work through them.
3. ~~This~~ is how God Works: He created a perfect man who chose to live <sup>se</sup>parate from Him. God then took the necessary step to reestablish a <sup>a</sup> personal relationship with man. This relationship restored the perfect communication between God and man. In other words, He does all for man, and man is free to believe <sup>ie</sup> or not to believe. That's what life is all about: Plan A or Plan B.

P.S. In the next issue, Bill will lay on why plan B is the "right-on" way of life.

