

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, there was an interesting movement in the United States. While this movement continues today, the peace movement was heightened due to a group of people who were very passionate in their objection to the war in Vietnam. While the motivation for the peace movement might be a point of considerable debate, it can be reasonably argued the passion these objectors had was misguided. The baby-boomers, as history calls this generation, were raised by a generation who had seen the Great Depression and for some time had seen culture healed from economic woes. These parents (especially of the working middle class) were in an interesting position. For the first time ever in history, parents were able to provide their children with certain luxuries and amenities they themselves were not able to have. These luxuries produced an interesting result. There was a mind-set in their children to question authority. They questioned things, however, in inappropriate ways. The baby-boomers gave way to the boomer-babies or, as history later them, Generation X. Generation X has taken the questioning mind-set of their parents and gone to the extreme of such thinking.

Today, current western culture has liberalism, socialism, denominationalism, pluralism, universalism, and a whole host of other features, which make it clear that defiance of authority is rampant. This questioning of authority has crept its way into religious circles. There are denominational boards and religious governing bodies that are currently questioning long-held views. The media teaches the debate might be over gay rights or women's role in the church. In truth, the debate is not so simple. The debate is more over some underlying philosophical principles of interpretation. In short, many are starting to question whether the Bible means what it says and says what it means or if biblical interpretation should be more subjective in nature. Unfortunately, such questioning of authority and interpretation has made its way into the New Testament church. Books are being published more and more which

call for a change in the way members should interpret the Bible and are thereby calling for change in action. One of the ways this is seen more and more today is under the thought that many people are all going to Heaven, but are just traveling different ways or paths to get there.

### **The Nature of Truth**

Sometimes, the reasoning of those who wish to reach out to accept others outside of the biblical standard is due to their reasoning that absolute truth does not exist. The position of no absolute standard is, however, self-defeating. If there is no absolute truth, is it possible to know such absolutely? To claim there is no absolute standard of right and wrong is ludicrous. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). Without truth, nothing makes sense. Truth, in and of itself, is narrow.

Two plus two equals four. It always equals four and does not equal anything but four. The truth of the equation is narrow. The possible answers which can be given to the equation are literally infinite. One could say two plus two equals five or 1000 or -4 and all would be wrong. One could give non-mathematical answers like blue, bowl, or house and again, all answers but one would be wrong. The nature of the problem is very, very narrow. It is also interesting that one can get very close to the right answer and still be wrong. One could say two plus two equal 3.9999, being very close to four, but still wrong. One could say that two plus two equals 4.0001, again very close to four but still wrong. It is possible to be very close to Christ but still not be "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

Truth is also absolute. Two plus two equals four. The statement is absolutely true. One cannot say, "For me, two plus two equals five." The person would be wrong. It is a troubling and contradicting thing to realize so many people are searching for an absolute standard which they themselves will say does not exist. Such thinking only leads to self-contradiction. Truth is universal and absolute.

There is no such thing as one truth for one person while another truth altogether exists for another person. Jesus prayed that His followers would be sanctified by truth in John 17:17. He went on to say the word is truth. The truth of God's word is not relative or different from one person to the next. Truth, by its very nature, is absolute.

### **The Nature of God**

Genesis one and two are very fascinating chapters in the word of God. God, by the very words of His mouth, was able to create the world. He literally spoke the world into existence. The scientific laws, the trees, the physical human body, and all nature contains is due to the voice of God. Truly, the chapters tell of the great power of God. Much study through the years has been done on the laws of science and the natural world. Interestingly, God created the world with absolutes. Unlike the laws of the land imposed by the government, scientific laws, if broken, would make a person famous. Science says life cannot come from non-life, matter cannot be created or destroyed, and the world is winding down. God created the world this way. The earth rotating on its axis and revolving around the sun are scientific points which, if altered in a very minute way, would change life and the world in a drastic way. God created it that way (Genesis 1:1). God keeps it in order (Colossians 1:17).

The same God who created the physical world also created a spiritual world. Paul exhorts the church in Ephesus to fight a spiritual war. In fact, the church is in the middle of a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:12). The church is described as a spiritual house in place to make spiritual sacrifices to God (1 Peter 2:5). God even provided a pattern for what those spiritual sacrifices are to be. Among them are worship (John 4:24), evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20), benevolence (James 1:27), and building each other up (Ephesians 4:12). There are spiritual beings, living creatures, elders, and angels in the spiritual realm (Revelation 5:11).

There are literally two worlds – a physical world and a spiritual world. Two worlds, but both worlds were created by the same God. The same God who created the physical world, with all of its boundaries, also created a spiritual world with boundaries. It is a contradiction to think that God would create a physical world with absolutes and then create a spiritual world that is all relative. The spiritual world also has boundaries – God imposed boundaries. People have to repent or they will perish (Luke 13:3, 5). Paul implicitly exhorted Christians to think spiritually (Romans 6:8). There is a certain way God expects His people to live (Titus 2:12). Jesus has called His people out of the world (John 15:19). God spiritually adds people to His church (Acts 2:47). There are two worlds both from one divine source. God created both with boundaries and laws.

### **There is Just One Way**

The account of Noah and the ark in Genesis 6-8 is a physical parallel to a spiritual truth. Noah, his wife, his sons, and his sons' wives were eight people who were saved on the ark (see 2Peter 2:5). Noah was commanded by God to build an ark. Hebrews 11:7 says he obeyed God through faith. Noah's faith was seen in his precise keeping of God's commands. Genesis 6:22 and 7:5 declare Noah did exactly as God commanded him to do. The dimensions of the ark, the animals which were to be placed on the ark, and the single door and window on the ark are all things which Noah observed in his faith and obedience. While there are lessons to be learned about the nature of faith and the obedience which God demands, there are other lessons implicitly taught in the text.

There was one ark whereby Noah and his family could be physically saved. There was, essentially, one way. The rest of the people on earth died physically because they were not on the ark. In Matthew 16:13-20, Jesus promised Peter and the rest of the disciples present on that occasion that he would build his church. Jesus said He is the way to

Heaven (John 14:7). Spiritually, there is just one way to Heaven. There was just one ark and there is just one church. This goes against the current culture of pluralism, denominationalism, and liberalism. However, God is true (see Romans 3:4). It is God's truth through which man is saved (John 8:32), and it is through faithful obedience to what God has said which saves mankind (Romans 10:17). The goal for mankind is to make sure they are being added to the New Testament church. This is done by following the word of God. There is one way and Jesus said He is the way.

### **Conclusion**

The nature of the one and only way makes sense in light of other passages in the Bible which exhort, implicitly or explicitly, people to make sure they are on the right path. Isaiah of old said it would be the remnant of Israel which would be saved (Isaiah 10:20-22). Jesus made mention of the same concept in several places. In Matthew 7:21, He said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven." Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount He exhorted, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). In the book of Revelation, Jesus exhorted six of the seven churches of Asia to repent because they were on the wrong path. Today, there are indeed many paths but Jesus said clearly He is the one and only way to Heaven.

This tract is condensed from a lesson presented at the  
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**"They Shall Be Turned  
Unto Fables"**

**"We Are All Going To  
The Same Place -  
Just Different Ways"**

by  
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