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The Path Of Least Resistance

Water and electrical currents will find places that offer the least opposition to their flow and follow them until they can move no further. Humans are the same way. Often times we may be tempted to do the least to get by, which means that there are details that are not attended to or quality that is sacrificed along the way. This is the spirit of compromise when it gets applied to spiritual matters. There are many reasons for this. Some may not wish to alienate themselves from a larger crowd while others do not wish to be confronted about what they believe and teach. In the scriptures we find that those who have been faithful to God have been faced with the harshest situations in order to be pleasing to God. Christ is our example of this. Christ was aware that his mission on Earth was to die. The writer of Hebrews, quoting the Psalms, states, "***Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me...***" (Heb 10.5). The son of God was willing to obey the will of the Father and make this sacrifice. His death was not the only manifestation of that. Christ was constantly assailed by those who tried to discredit him or confound that doctrine that he taught. Speaking to his disciples, Christ stated, "***Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.***" (Lk 22.28). The disciples had seen the things that Christ endured in his teaching. Christ prepared them for their own work once he had been taken from them and explained that this was the same thing that they would go through. As they were sent forth to prepare the way for him, Christ stated, "***Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.***" (Lk 10.3). This knowledge could have caused them to abandon what they had been called upon to do. We know that they did not do this, with the exception of Judas Iscariot, and worked for Christ as he had directed them. Christ had further warned them, "***If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.***" (John 15.18). Only a deep sense of purpose would cause anyone to continue having been told this. Others would have not even started the work. The apostles on the other hand did what was needed and the kingdom was established on the day of Pentecost. Initially we find that there was peace for the church as it began to grow and take hold. We find that in those early days the people respected the Christians (Acts 2.47). As the church grew, and the teaching of the Gospel caused those of lesser integrity to stir up problems the church came under persecution with the result that Gospel spread even further (Acts 8.1-4). The apostles met with opposition concerning their teaching prior to the onset of the persecution and were confronted by the religious leadership concerning this. "***Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.***" (Acts 5.28). At the time of Christ's trial, these same men had cried out, "***His blood be on us, and on our children.***" (Matt 27.25). Now when they were faced with this they denied the responsibility. Eventually the persecution became more fierce and more open. Herod even became involved in this as a means of pleasing the people. "***Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also.***" (Acts 12.1-3). We realize from reading the scriptures that there were those who remained faithful and there were others who fell away. Ultimately the reason for this was due to the desire to get along, not endanger oneself, not feel alienated and do what one wanted for oneself. The fear of conflict, or the condemnation of those who will defend the truth, is seeking for a path of least resistance. The point here is that living in this world we will find that there are precious few who really desire to serve God and do so in the way that he has outlined in his word. The majority of the human race believes that we have the right to exercise editorial authority over the word of God and make of it what we want, or neglect it entirely. To hold to the word is to sow the seeds of conflict with those who are entrenched in the world and it's ways. Some claim to believe in Jesus but practice doctrines that are not found in God's word, their religion is one of entitlement, the right to do as we please, forgetting that it was the sacrifice and blood of Christ that revealed the true nature of God in the first place. Pressures, pleasures and stress lead to finding a path that works the best, stirs up little or no controversy, providing us with a sense of being in the right. This is to fool ourselves into a sense of false security because it is God who has the final word and the path of least resistance leads to Hell.

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