

WALK IN THE WAY OF THE LORD

Mar 1:2 *As it is written in the Prophets: "BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER BEFORE YOUR FACE, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU."*

Mar 1:3 *"THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS: 'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD; MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.'"*

Mar 1:4 *John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.*

Jesus called John the Baptist the greatest prophet of the Old Covenant. [Luk 7:28] John the Baptist was sent and appointed by God to prepare the way of our Lord. John the Baptist capsulated the Law. His ministry represented the Law and ministered the Law. The Law was given to prepare people for Jesus. John the Baptist was a voice ***crying in the wilderness***. The Law was given in the wilderness at Mt. Sinai. Since John represented the Law he was sent out to the wilderness to begin his ministry. The Law was given first to reveal sins. This was the ministry of John the Baptist. His ministry was to expose sins.

Luk 3:9 *And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."*

Luk 3:10 *So the people asked him, saying, "What shall we do then?"*

Luk 3:11 *He answered and said to them, "He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise."*

Luk 3:12 *Then tax collectors also came to be baptized, and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"*

Luk 3:13 *And he said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed for you."*

Luk 3:14 *Likewise the soldiers asked him, saying, "And what shall we do?" So he said to them, "Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages."*

Mat 3:7 *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*

Mar 6:18 *Because John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife."*

People came to John the Baptist asking what they must **DO** to be right with God. John told them. He revealed the holiness of the Lord and what they had to do in order to be righteous. The Law focuses on God's holiness, man's works, and the need for perfect obedience to be right with Him. John exposed the sins of the people, tax collectors, soldiers, the religious Pharisees and Sadducees, and even of the wicked King Herod! That is what got him thrown into prison. John represented the Law and ministered the Law; therefore, His ministry was to expose sins but also to do one other thing. **It was to point to the Lamb of God**, Jesus, who could bear the sins of mankind perfectly and give the gift of perfect righteousness.

Luk 3:16 *John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

Joh 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

John was called to expose sins but he also was called to point to Jesus as the Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world. The Law was given to reveal sin but also point to and teach about Jesus as the answer for our sin and our permanent answer for righteousness. The sacrificial system in the Law taught about Jesus as our complete and perfect sacrifice for sins and the gift of perfect and everlasting righteousness. When Jesus came to begin His ministry he took up where John the Baptist left off. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. The Law was designed by God to get man to see their sin and repent of their sin, but also to receive Christ and grace.

Mar 1:15 and [Jesus was] saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

Jesus picked up the message of John and preached repentance but He also went on further and also revealed the need to believe the gospel, the good news of His grace. It is not enough to see your sin and repent. It is not enough to prepare for the way of the Lord [grace], you must accept it and walk in it! You must receive His complete sacrifice for all your sins by faith and receive by faith the gift of His perfect, complete, and everlasting righteousness.

John was called to prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus came and proclaimed He was the way! The Law was GIVEN by Moses, but grace and truth CAME through Jesus Christ.

(Joh 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

God placed us into Christ [the Way] by His grace when we got saved. We were saved by grace through faith. Many Christians after they get saved by grace are going backwards and are trying to prepare the way of the Lord by living under legalism. They are still trying to achieve righteousness by their own works and efforts. They are living under a continual guilt and sense of unrighteousness. They are sin conscious. They are still trying to make themselves right with the Lord and to deserve forgiveness, healing, prosperity, deliverance, and everything else the Lord died to give man freely.

Rom 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

The gospel is that Jesus has forgiven you of every and all your sins past, present, and future by His one complete, all inclusive, and one time sacrifice of Himself by His finished work on the cross. In exchange for your sins He offers you the free gift of His perfect righteousness before God. It is by this righteousness that God can legally bless you with all that He has. The verse above is the gospel. He offered His Son as a gift to you and everything else God has comes freely through His gift of forgiveness and righteousness in Him. Instead of continually preparing for the way of the Lord, receive the Lord in all His fullness and walk in His way [grace]. Receive His complete forgiveness and the gift of His complete and perfect righteousness before God as the basis for receiving from the Lord. When

you do this you walk in the way of the Lord. When you do this you will walk in the Spirit! When you walk in faith in the Lord's complete forgiveness and His gift of perfect righteousness then the Spirit of God will empower you to live a righteous and God honoring life! You will be able to come before God in bold assurance and receive all you need. Believe the gospel today and walk in the way of the Lord! Trust in Jesus!