

Sufficient Evidence

“...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” - Matthew 27:46

Jesus, in His three and a half year ministry, openly provided evidence of His deity and of salvation through miracles and teachings, yet most people failed to take heed. They failed because they had no need to consider Godly evidence that conflicted with their own religious views; they refused to believe His miracles, though they personally witnessed them; and they refused to even ponder His words, though they heard them with their own ears. Instead, they tenaciously clung to the faith that was taught to them by their forefathers or to the faith that they, individually or collectively, had developed over time in opposition to His Word. Their unyielding position is clearly seen in their response to Pilate’s finding of innocence, “...*Crucify him, crucify him*” (Luke 23:21). At His crucifixion, Jesus’ detractors challenged Him to come down from the cross, saying that He saved others now He should save Himself if He truly was the son of God. Rather, He cried out (as if in vain) that God had forsaken him to which the people gleefully responded, “...*let us see whether Elijah will come to save him*” (Matthew 27:49). To them, the fact that God did not intervene was sufficient evidence that Jesus was false, notwithstanding that He had used the very scriptures that they purported to believe in to prove His teachings. Such has been the way of man throughout time; namely, he believes in what seems to make the most sense and the more evidence he gathers in from various sources the stronger he becomes in his own faith.

At Creation, we see that Adam and Eve really were no different than the people who crucified Jesus. Our first parents very early on ignored God’s word when they listened to the serpent instead of to God and ate the forbidden fruit. They had sufficient evidence from God to avoid the tree of the knowledge of good and evil but their desire to “*be as gods*” (Genesis 3:5) was too compelling to just be satisfied with His Word. Who knows, but they may have entertained the thought that they were somehow doing God a great service by taking the initiative to build upon His Word. However, the result of that one sin of seeking one’s own evidence has been visited on all people to this very day, and it will continue to plague everyone until the last day.

As the population of the world grew, in the years following Creation, man became so self-centered to not

merely ignore God but to actively reject Him on all points; “*GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Genesis 6:5). It grieved God that He had ever made man yet, for the sake of Noah, He allowed His Word to go forth for another hundred twenty years before destroying all air-breathing life on earth, save those that entered the Ark. Other than eight people, no other person survived the ensuing flood although every person alive at that time had sufficient evidence and time to consider their plight, but they refused God’s gracious offer of salvation. Satan had such a strong influence over the world’s population that God had to destroy them. Scripture tells us that He will do it again, this time by fire.

After the flood, God raised up His people, the Israelites, to spread the Word to the rest of the world. It was on their initial march to the Promised Land, after just witnessing God’s miraculous guidance along the way, that they sought evidence about the way ahead by using their own resources rather than relying on God. They fully knew about God’s promise to protect them throughout life, “*The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes*” (Deuteronomy 1:30), which should have been sufficient evidence for them to advance into the unseen, but they went beyond His Word to gather additional evidence, “...*We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land...*” (Deuteronomy 1:22). Although their findings proved that the land was as good as God described, their findings also caused so much confusion and fear about the immediate future that they “...*would not go up [into the Promised Land], but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD...*” (Deuteronomy 1:26). Clearly, the people did not benefit by supplementing God’s Word with their own findings.

Likewise, seemingly useful information can be gleaned from the many resources readily available to man today, but it’s only the Word of God—the Bible—that provides evidence of eternal salvation. Indeed, not everything has been recorded in the Bible that could be recorded, but that which is recorded is sufficient evidence for any searching soul to learn of eternal life, “*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name*” (John 20:30-31).

Pray that God would search your heart to expose any wickedness, and that He would, through His Word, instill a need into your heart to repent and believe the spoken gospel of forgiveness according to His Word and not according to your personal religious views or that of anyone else.

God's Peace,
Charles Korhonen

Jan 7	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
Jan 14	Chad Kuivanen	
Jan 21	Ken Storm	
Jan 28	Charles Korhonen	Potluck meal following

Church Cleaning:

January Curt and Karen Lampinen, Jon Lehtinen

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