



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## “That Many Pastors Can’t Be Wrong”

Jeff Smelser

So asserted an advertisement for a direct mail service used by more than 1,000 churches. One would think that even with a passing familiarity with the Bible, people would be reluctant to determine the validity of something based on the number of people who believe in it.

When the twelve spies returned to the camp of Israel to report what they had seen in Canaan, ten of them said, “We are not able to go up against the people for they are too strong for us” (Numbers 13:31) while only two said “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we shall surely overcome it” (Numbers 13:30). The people, evidently thinking that surely ten couldn’t be wrong when only two spies offered a contrary opinion, balked at trying to invade Canaan. The ten were wrong— the two were right. Goliath was a giant who opposed the army of Israel in the days of King Saul. It was the prevailing opinion that

Goliath could not be defeated. “When all the men of Israel saw the man, they fled from him and were greatly afraid” (I Samuel 17:24). It would have been easy for a youth such as David to assume that so many trained soldiers, could not be wrong. But you know the rest of the story.

The law of Moses warned against being swayed by a multitude: “You shall not follow a multitude in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice” (Exodus 23:2).

And Jesus said, “Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it” (Mt. 7:13-14) And yet the stumbling block for many in obeying the pure gospel of Jesus Christ is that doing so would be an implicit denunciation of Christendom, and it seems that “millions professing Christians can’t be wrong!” They can be and they are. And the only way I can be right is to follow God’s word without being swayed by the multitudes.

~via Searching For Truth; Iuka, Illinois.

## GOD IS GOOD

by Ken Green

"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

One of the most foundational verses in all the Bible is Habakkuk 2:4: “The just shall live by his faith.” Every step we take with God is a step of faith. Trusting Him; leaning upon Him; resting in Him; believing His promises. That’s what the God life--the Christian life-- is all about. Faith is the way into it, and faith is the way through it.

Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11: 6). Without this confident belief, we cannot live in victory or walk in the strength that God wants to give us. Without it, we don’t experience comfort for our heartaches. Without faith, we don’t ask and receive. How many things are lost in life because of a lack of belief? And how many things, with it, could be gained? So, why would anyone who wears the name of Christ not live by faith?

We all know and love John 3:16. It is a basic biblical verse for lost folks. But Rom. 8:28 is such for us who have answered the call of Christ and are trying to follow in His steps. If you don’t believe God is good, you will not be able to walk by

faith. You'll live as though good things must be gotten some other way because God won't give them. You might even be tempted to think, God is not good.

But God assures us often in His word that He is good. A few examples: "The Lord is good" (Nahum 1:7). "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good" (Psalm 136:1). "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone" (Mark 10:18).

Faith is believing the Word of God and acting upon it. Faith is doing this no matter how we feel, because God promises a good result. God is good. That word "good" means: kind, generous, benevolent. His intent toward His children is to hear them, bless them, help them, heal them. Even when we've made mistakes, perhaps disastrous mistakes, His disposition toward us as His sons and daughters is to work it all together for good.

I have seen the goodness of God take some of the truly foolish things I've done; even sinful things; things I deeply regret, and in His benevolence and kindness use them for my good.

The goodness of God is the soil that faith grows in. The fact that God is good is what motivates our belief when we can't see any other reason for going on. Faith is the foundational bedrock conviction that better days are ahead, that things are not going to end the way they are now.

And there's only one reason for having such a lofty, hopeful attitude: God is good. "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). That's how a Christian lives by faith.

## Holiness

Consider these Scriptures about holiness

### **The Holiness of God**

"Who *is* like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exodus 15:11

Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! 1 Chronicles 16:29

Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever. Psalms 93:5

### **Our call to holiness**

A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. Isaiah 35:8

For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 1 Thessalonians 4:7

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:14

but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1 Peter 1:15-16

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