

What If God Let Us Have Our Own Way?



Some Things We Think We Need Or Want Are Not Good For Us

- ✦ Some don't want to be bothered with God requiring them to be obedient.
- ✦ Some, when in trial, decide to quit and want others to leave them alone.
- ✦ Those rebuked for sin often feel they would be happier if left alone.
- ✦ We want to consider what a mess we would be in if God decided to do what we want and let us have our own way.

What If God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

◆ Hosea 4:1 - 5:10 - Ephraimites

- 4:1-2 - There is no truth, knowledge of God, nor mercy in the land. They sin and keep on sinning.
- 4:3-5 - All of the people, priests, and even the land would be cursed.
- 4:6-9 - They rejected knowledge of God and His way
- 4:10-11 - They would eat, but not be satisfied, because they sought things to satisfy their own lusts and idolatries.
- 4:12-14 - They pursued idolatry, and God ceased to reprove them any longer.
- 4:16-17 - He would "Let Ephraim alone" in their determination to continue to sin.
- 5:1-2 - He rebuked Israel and they would not listen.
- 5:3-5 - They shall both fall in their iniquity.
- 5:6-10 - He would now pour out His wrath on them.

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◆ Matt. 15:12-14 - Pharisees

- Matt 3:7 - They didn't listen to John's warnings.
- Matt. 21:23-27 - Many disregarded John's teachings.
- Mark 3:22 - They attributed Jesus' healing to the work of the Devil.
- Mark 3:6 - They plotted to kill Him.
- Matt. 15:3-9 - They held traditions above the word of God.

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◆ Rom. 1:20-32 - Gentiles

- 1:20-23 - They refused to remember and accept God.
- 1:24 - God gave them up to immorality.
- 1:26-27 - God gave them up to homosexuality.
- 1:28-32 - God gave them up to a reprobate mind.

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◆ Rom. 1:20-28 - Gentiles

◆ How did they end up?

- They were fools, though they thought themselves wise.
- They were religious but their worship was vain before God.
- They wallowed in their own lusts, in bondage to the worst of sins, in a lifestyle they thought was freedom.
- They filled their lives with trouble, certain they were managing their lives well.
- They earned of death, but they refused to see it.

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◆ Heb 6:4-9 - Apostate Christians

- 6:4-6 - They tasted all the good blessings God has to offer and then fell away, leaving the blessings for something else they cherished more.
- It is impossible to renew them again to repentance, as there is nothing left with which to reach them.
- 6:7-9 - They stand hopeless and despised before God.

What If God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

- ◆ We make the very flawed assumption that everyone can be saved.
 - Jesus said otherwise - “Pearls before swine” (Matt. 7:6)
 - Paul said otherwise - “God gave them up” (Rom. 1:26)
 - Peter said otherwise - “The latter end is worse for them than the beginning” (2Peter 2:20)
 - The Hebrew writer said otherwise - “It is impossible... to renew them again to repentance” (Heb. 6:4, 6); “There no longer remains a sacrifice for sins” (Heb. 10:26)
- ◆ Many cannot be saved or restored. They have the “reprobate” or debased mind.

Why Would God Let These People Have Their Own Way?

- ◆ In each case, there was ample opportunity to listen to God's warnings and repent.
- ◆ In each case, the people followed their own desires and rejected God's way for a way of their own choosing.
- ◆ In such cases, there comes a point when God will not try further.

Why Would God Let These People Have Their Own Way?

- ◆ Prov. 1:20-33 - What does wisdom do if its cry is not heard?
 - 1:20-22 - Wisdom cries out.
 - 1:23 - Wisdom makes one last call.
 - 1:24-25 - They repeatedly refuse to listen.
 - 1:26-31 - They will taste the fruit of their mistakes.
 - 1:32-33 - Their judgment is self-inflicted.

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

- ◆ He first shows the way through His Son.
 - Heb. 1:1 - He has done this.
 - John 1:10-12 - He was the light that men have rejected.
 - John 3:18-21 - Lack of faith in Him is condemned because it is a result of rejecting the light.
 - John 16:13 - All Truth will be revealed by the Spirit.
 - 2Peter 1:3 - All that pertains to life and godliness has been given.

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

- ◆ He then earnestly exhorts us to receive this message.
 - Acts 2:38-40 - Exhortation was given to them.
 - Acts 3:19 - Repent and be converted.
 - James 1:21-22 - Be doers, receive the saving word.
 - Matt. 7:24-27 - Be wise, not foolish.

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

- ◆ He sternly warns us of the consequences of refusing to hear.
 - Rom. 10:16 - Counted as an unbeliever
 - 2Thes. 1:7-9 - Fiery vengeance of God
 - Matt. 13:41-42 - Cast out of the kingdom
 - 1Peter 4:17-19 - Judgment is coming

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

✦ He will be patient.

- 2Peter 3:14-15 - His longsuffering is for our salvation.
- 2Peter 3:9 - His longsuffering allows the world to stand.

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

✦ He will reprove and correct us if we will listen.

– 2Tim. 3:16 - Doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

– Heb. 12:11 - “Chastening... yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Would God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

- ✦ And then He will bring certain judgment on us if we still want to have our own way.
 - Heb. 10:27 - “A certain fearful expectation of judgment”
 - Deut. 9:3 - “The LORD your God is... a consuming fire.”
 - 2Peter 2:4-9 - He has done it before.

Do We Really Want To Have Our Own Way?

