

# What If God Let Us Have Our Own Way?

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

## Introduction:

- A. Some things we think we need or want are not good for us.
  - 1. If some kids were given just what they want to eat, they would be sick.
  - 2. Many adults, if asked, would want money, but it would not buy them contentment.
  - 3. What we think we want may not be good for us in spiritual matters, too.
- B. Some people think the best thing God can do for them is to “let them alone.”
  - 1. Some don't want to be bothered with God and His word requiring them to live godly lives, to be unselfish, obedient, etc.
  - 2. Others, in their greatest times of trial and heartache, decide to be left alone. They quit the church and want others to just forget about them and leave them alone.
  - 3. Those rebuked for sin often feel they would be happier if left alone.
- C. Today 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.

## I. WHAT IF GOD LET US HAVE OUR OWN WAY?

- A. Examples of those God left alone and what it meant to them:
  - 1. Hosea 4:1 - 5:10 - Israel (Ephraim) and Judah, the divided kingdom
    - a. 4:1-2 - There is no truth, knowledge of God, nor mercy in the land. They sin and keep on sinning.
    - b. 4:3-5 - They would fall: all of the people, priests, and even the land would be cursed.
    - c. 4:6-9 - They rejected knowledge of God and His way.
    - d. They would eat, but not be satisfied, because they sought things to satisfy their own lusts and idolatries.
    - e. 4:12-15 - Israel had gone after all sorts of idolatries, and God was not going to reprove them any more for it.
    - f. 4:16-17 - He would “Let Ephraim alone” in their determination to continue to sin.
    - g. 5:1-2 - He had rebuked Israel and they had not listened.
    - h. 5:3-5 - They shall both fall in their iniquity.
    - i. 5:6-10 - He would now pour out His wrath upon them like water.
  - 2. Matt. 15:12-14 - The Pharisees who rejected Christ and His teachings
    - a. Matt 3:7 - They didn't listen to the warnings of John.
    - b. Matt. 21:23-27 - Many disregarded John's teachings.
    - c. Mark 3:22-30 - They attributed His healing to work of the Devil
    - d. Mark 3:6 - They took counsel how to kill Him
    - e. Matt. 15:3-9, 12, 14 - They held traditions above the word of God
  - 3. Rom. 1:20-28 - God gave them up, gave them over...
    - a. 1:20-23 - They refused to remember and accept God as God.
    - b. 1:24 - God gave them up to uncleanness, immorality born of their own lusts.
    - c. 1:26-27 - God gave them over to homosexuality, men & women

- d. 1:28-32 - God gave them up to a reprobate (worthless) mind to do, believe, and think things of no value to them or anyone else.
- e. How did they end up?
  - 1) They were fools, though they thought themselves wise.
  - 2) They were religious but their worship was vain.
  - 3) They wallowed in their own lusts, in bondage to the worst of sins, in a lifestyle they thought was freedom.
  - 4) They filled their lives with trouble, sure that they were managing things just fine.
  - 5) They were worthy of death, but they didn't see it.
- 4. Heb 6:4-9 - These were rejected from God's service, worthless to Him.
  - a. 6:4-6 - They have tasted all the good blessings God has to offer.
  - b. They then fell away, leaving the blessings for something else they cherished more.
  - c. Now it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, as there is nothing left with which to reach them.
  - d. 6:7-9 - The comparison to a field full of briars. They stood hopeless before God and despised by Him.
- B. We make the very flawed assumption that everyone can be saved.
  - 1. Jesus said otherwise - "Pearls before swine" (Matt. 7:6)
  - 2. Paul said otherwise - "God gave them up" (Rom. 1:26)
  - 3. Peter said otherwise - "The latter end is worse for them than the beginning" (2Peter 2:20)
  - 4. 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)
  - 5. Many cannot be saved or restored. They have the "reprobate" or debased/worthless mind.

## II. WHY WOULD GOD LET THESE PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN WAY?

- A. In each case, there was ample opportunity to listen to God's warnings and repent.
- B. In each case, the people followed their own desires and rejected God's way for a way of their own choosing.
- C. In such cases, there comes a point when God will not try further. He will give them up and leave them alone when they persist in evil despite warnings.
- D. Prov 1:20-33 - What does wisdom do if its cry is not heard?
  - 1. 1:20-22 - Wisdom cried out, "How long will ye love simplicity?"
  - 2. 1:23 - One last call: "Turn you at reproof..."
  - 3. 1:24-25 - They would not listen, over and over again
  - 4. 1:26-31 - They will taste the fruit of their mistakes
  - 5. 1:32-33 - Their judgment is self-inflicted
- E. Likewise we could be left alone by God.

## III. WOULD GOD LET US HAVE OUR OWN WAY?

- A. He will first show us the way through His Son.

1. Heb. 1:1 - He has done this.
  2. John 1:10-12 - He was the light that men have rejected.
  3. John 3:18-21 - Lack of faith in Him is condemned because it is a result of rejecting the light.
  4. John 16:13 - All Truth will be revealed by the Spirit.
  5. 2Peter 1:3 - All that pertains to life and godliness has been given.
- B. He then earnestly exhorts us to receive this message.
1. Acts 2:38-40 - Exhortation was given to them.
  2. Acts 3:19 - Repent and be converted.
  3. James 1:21-22 - Be doers, receive the saving word.
  4. Matt. 7:24-27 - Be wise, not foolish.
- C. He sternly warns us of the consequences of refusing to hear.
1. Rom. 10:16 - Counted as an unbeliever
  2. 2Thes. 1:7-9 - Fiery vengeance of God
  3. Matt. 13:41-42 - Cast out of the kingdom
  4. 1Peter 4:17-19 - Judgment is coming
- D. He will be patient with us.
1. 2Peter 3:14-15 - His longsuffering is for our salvation.
  2. 2Peter 3:9 - His longsuffering allows the world to stand.
- E. He will reprove and correct us if we will listen.
1. 2Tim. 3:16 - "Doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness."
  2. Heb. 12:11 - "Chastening... yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
- F. And then He will bring swift, sure judgment on us.
1. Heb. 10:27 - "A certain fearful expectation of judgment"
  2. Deut. 9:3 - "The LORD your God is... a consuming fire." 2.
  3. 2Peter 2:4-9 - He has done it before.

Conclusion:

- A. Wanting God to leave us alone is the worst mistake we can make.
- B. God did all He needed to do to save us.
- C. It is now up to us to either receive His word or reject it.