

If we give what we want, we will give what others need. We all want and need the same thing: forgiveness! "We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life" (Edwin Markham). This reflects what is true with most people; they know the rule, but don't live by it. If Jesus is truly our Lord, then His "Golden Rule" will govern our life!

Some truths in the word of God are so simple that we overlook their profound nature. Some are used just as children's memory verses. However, the Golden Rule is a yard stick by which we can measure every relationship in our lives. It is easy to understand and apply if we are willing. There is nothing needed more among men today.

This is as old as the law and the prophets . . . This is no new rule, but one inherent in God's will for man in all times. Further, this clearly emphasizes the eternal authority of God. Those who seek to limit the whole duty of man to humanitarian obligations miss the point. This principle is based on our love for God (Mat. 22:37).

Rickie Jenkins (Campbell Road church of Christ Facebook Page)



Necessity

There's an old adage that says "Necessity is the mother of invention". This means that new inventions or new methods of doing things will be created or discovered when there is a need to improve. As one example, when cars were first invented, they did not have windshield wipers. At the time, the creators of cars did not realize how important these would be. Yet after a few years of drivers having to get out of their cars and manually wipe snow off the windshield, it quickly became apparent they would need a better way to do this task. In 1903, Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper blade to solve this issue, and windshield wipers have been part of cars ever since.

Some people have applied this idea of necessity leading to "invention" to the Bible. Some suggest that when Adam and Eve took the forbidden fruit, this altered God's plan, and required Him to come up with a new one to address humanity. Those who hold this belief seem to believe that God was surprised that Adam and Eve committed this sin and had not accounted for it. Of course, this would deny the all-knowing nature of God. If nothing else, the fact that God warned them not to take the fruit and told them what would happen if they did indicate that He knew it was a possibility, and had a plan in mind if they did. We read in 1 Peter 1:20 that Jesus was "foreordained before the foundation of the world". Foreordained for what? To be the Christ, to be the Son of God, to be the perfect offering for sin by which we humans could come into fellowship with God once again. And Peter tells us that this was ordained before the world even existed. Truly, God did not need a "Plan B" to address sin.

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Study / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

Those who hold the belief that the Bible was “Plan B” have argued that if Christ indeed was meant to be the perfect offering for sin, why did God go through the Old Testament first? Why not just send Christ down immediately to extinguish sin on the world in the Garden of Eden? Galatians 4:4-5 tells us that Christ came in “The fullness of time”. In other words, He came when God knew the time was right. That is the bottom line, the ultimate answer. He came when God said it was time, and He will come again when God says it is time for the world to end, (Mark 13:32-33). Returning to Galatians 4:4-5, we also see that Jesus was “born of a woman, born under the law”. What law? The Law of Moses. But the Law of Moses did not exist in the Garden of Eden. Jesus couldn’t very well be “born under the law” if the law didn’t exist, could He? The Law of Moses was established at Mount Sinai and became God’s law for the Israelite people for many centuries, and finally in the 1st century Jesus came forth, “born under the law” and was the only man to perfectly fulfill the Law of Moses, which was one of the requirements for Him to be the perfect offering.

Still unsatisfied with these answers, those who hold the belief that the Bible was “Plan B” have pointed to the multitude of times from Genesis to the Gospels that God’s plan seemed to be close to failure. The Flood which decimated the world and spared only 8 humans and all the animals on the ark could have ended the lineage that would ultimately lead to Christ, yet it didn’t. If Abraham, Isaac or Jacob or their descendants had been slain by their adversaries, that would have ended the lineage. Every time the Israelite nation went into idolatry, they violated the Law of Moses that God intended them to keep, and many times they faced certain destruction because of it. Yet God always kept a remnant, as we read in Ezekiel 6:8. The Israelites, and therefore the lineage of Christ, was never eradicated, and thus Christ was able to come forth in accordance with all the prophecies.

Even when Christ was born, Satan did not give up. He used Herod to try to kill off the young Jesus. He later tried to tempt Jesus in the wilderness and continued this right up to and including the cross itself. Yet God’s plan never failed. ...

Christ dying on the cross as the perfect sacrifice was always part of the plan, and the church was always intended to come, to be the final covenant between God and man. The Bible was not “Plan B”. It wasn’t even “Plan A”. It was simply the plan, born not out of necessity, but by the perfect foreknowledge of God. May we accept His perfect foresight and trust in His Word.

Written by: Daniel Young

Golden Rule

“Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets” (Matt.7:12).

Most everyone has their own version of the Golden Rule. God has put this foundational principle in our hearts. It says, if we want to be treated with respect and love, we need to treat others that way first.

This little principle seems so simple, but it is so easy to be violated almost every day. All of us long to be accepted, but we make a game out of tearing, ripping apart, crushing, ignoring, and ridiculing people around us. Sometimes we do it even to those who are closest to us. We would never think of abusing anyone. We are too sophisticated for that. Yet, we gossip, use sarcasm and silence to insert the knife when people don’t expect anything. If we are caught, we say, “I was just kidding.”

Living by the Golden Rule involves a conscious choice to be kind, offer respect and honor. It demands words of affirmation and patience with all. It says, “You matter to me!” If we make radical acceptance of others a central value in our lives, amazing things will happen.

First, if we practice this, some of the people who know us best will need to recover from shock. Eventually, they will realize they don’t have to protect themselves from us anymore. Then, slowly, they will begin to give back the acceptance they have received from us. It is that simple. It really is!

Perhaps there is no greater need for the Golden Rule than in the area of forgiveness. See, the Golden Rule gives what others need, not what they deserve. The Golden Rule would help mend wounds and help reconcile those who have fallen out with each other.

Continued on back...