

## The Path to Christianity

By: Justin Witt

President Obama was quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying

“I came to my Christian faith later in life. And it was because the precepts of Jesus Christ spoke to me in terms of the kind of life that I would want to lead—being my brothers’ and sisters’ keeper, treating others as they would treat me.”

On the surface it sounds like a good statement but there was a glaring problem in this statement that jumped out at me. What is implied in this statement was that what came first was President Obama’s sense of what is good and right. And it was because what he perceived within Christianity matched his own personal ideas at least to a sufficient degree that he came to this Christian faith.

In truth, while it is easy to single out this statement since it come from our President who is certainly a big figure within our society, I suspect that many follow this path. People decide what is good and right first, and then they find religion based on this. In fact, when I decided to find a church to attend after years of not faithfully believing anything at all, this is exactly what I thought I needed to do. I thought I had to figure out what I believed and then find the group that most closely matches my own sense of what was good and true – in fact this seems very similar to how one might choose a political party.

There are several problems that come as a result, but all are really based on one principle stated in Proverbs 16:25 *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* When we base our lives on what we think is good and right we will inevitably find ourselves on the wide road that leads to destruction (Mt. 7:13). Also consider, if this were the path that God would want for us then why would Jesus teach as He did in Matthew 16:24 that we should deny ourselves if we are to follow Jesus? How would it make sense that we must decide on our own what is good and right in order to come to the conclusion that Christianity is right, but then deny ourselves in order to follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ? It doesn’t make sense, because this path toward God is not one that is founded within the scriptures, however common it may be in the world. In fact, this idea of religion was founded with Eve in the garden with the serpent as the serpent said in Genesis 3:4 *“Ye shall surely not die.”* He went on to tell her that she would be as a god upon eating it. As a result Eve saw that the fruit was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise and so she ate of the fruit and gave also to her husband (Gen. 3:6). She decided what was good and right and followed after that, and we all know what happened as a result.

There is a better path. It is the path that has been taken by all of the faithful that can be found within the scriptures. The scriptures teach that we should seek the will of God. In fact, a good definition of sin founded within the scriptures, is anything that is contrary to the revealed will of God. If we want to be pleasing to God then we must set aside our own ways, we must set aside what seems good and right in our own sight, and be willing to replace those thoughts with the will of God. To seek God, we must seek His will and set our lives in order accordingly. The path to Christianity must be founded in the belief that there is a God, and He is the creator of all the world. He sent His Son to be sacrificed once for all of us so that those that believe, and live accordingly, might have the hope of being raised up with Him in that final day. To suggest that we can find faith based on our own thoughts gives far more credit to mankind than the scriptures teach is justified. Not to mention, such would directly imply that the teachings within the scriptures are false and that God Himself is a liar. Let us not put ourselves in this position, but seek His understanding and His teachings, and as a result, His salvation.