

Why Rivers Are Crooked

Nature is often spoken of as God's other book. It is older than the Bible. It proclaims the Supreme Being - but it remains for the Bible to tell us who this is. Nature declares His Glory and power while the Bible reveals His goodness, mercy, condescension and love. Only lessons taught.

I Some lessons Nature teaches:

1. The testimony of the Bible.
 - a. (Ps. 19:1-2, Rom. 1:19-20)
 - b. (Mt. 24:32-33, 13:31-32, Mk. 4:26-29, Ps. 92:12, Mt. 6:28-29)
2. There are many things in the natural world which remind us of the spiritual. Sun (Mal. 4:2); Star (Rev. 22:16); Rock (Ps. 89:26) Tree (Rev. 22:2); Grass (I Pet. 1:24); Lamb (Jno. 1:29); ~~Leaven (I Cor. 5:7)~~; Land (Heb. 6:7-8); Vines (Jno. 15:5-6) etc.

II We would like to take a lesson from Rivers.

- Need
Script. reference
to Rivers.*
1. Rivers form a prominent part of God's creation, and all men are more or less familiar with them.
 2. One of the noticeable things about rivers is their serpentine course. No one has ever seen a river that was entirely straight from its beginning to end.
 3. Why are rivers crooked? "a river becomes crooked by following the line of least resistance" "So does man"
 4. This will be valuable knowledge if we apply to ourselves. Are we as crooked as a river?

III Some things the Lord expects of His People:

1. To walk in straight (consistent And correct) paths. (Heb. 12:13). What it means. There are many things hindering such a course:
 - a. External: (Acts 14:22, I Thess. 3:3, I Tim. 6:9-10)
 - b. Internal: (Jas. 1:13-14)
2. Must resist evil which would leave a crooked trail: (Jas. 4:7, Rom. 12:21, Song "yield not to temptation)

IV Some Outstanding Bible Examples.

1. of those who make crooked paths:
 - a. Cain: (Gen. 4:1-8, Heb. 11:4, I Jno. 3:11-12, Jude 11)
 - b. Balaam: (Num. 22:1ff, Jude 11, II Pet. 2:15)
 - c. Korah: (Num. 16:1ff, Jude 11)
 - d. Felix: (Josephus 20:7:2, Acts 24:24-25)
 - e. Demas: (Phile. 24;, Col. 4:14, II Tim. 4:10)
2. Of those who made straight paths:
 - a. Joseph (Gen. 39:1ff)
 - b. Daniel (Dan. 1:1ff)
 - c. Three Hebrews (Dan. 3:1ff)
 - d. Paul: (I Cor. 9:27, ~~II Cor. 12:7-10~~) *II Tim 4:6-8*

V Some practical applications:

1. It is not beyond the power of people to know way which God has ordained for them. (Eph. 2:10, I Cor. 10:13, Jas. 1:2-8)
2. Christians should remember the word of the Lord when they are tempted to follow the line of least resistance.
 - a. By walking in worldly ways (Jno. 2:15-17, Jas. 4:4) No compromise.
 - b. By absenting selves from assembly of saints. (Heb. 10;24-26)
 - c. By seeking to recompense evil for evil (Rom. 12:19-21)
3. If they use strength God gives, no obstacle can turn them from the way of righteousness. (Phil. 4:13, Ps. 119:11, Mt. 4:4) (Ps. 119:105)
The pathway leads straight up to heaven. The crooked rivers, wandering down hill all the way, empty into the dark sea of everlasting regret.
 - a. Are you on a straight course, walking in strict accord with the will of the great King?
 - b. That straight course is blue printed in the N.T. and sealed with the blood of the Son of God.

Some practical applications:
1. It is not beyond the power of people to know
the way which God has ordained for them. (Eph.
3:10, 1 Cor. 10:13, Jas. 1:5-8)
2. Christian should remember the word of the
Lord when they are tempted to follow the line
of least resistance.
a. By walking in worldly ways (Jas. 2:15-17,
Jas. 4:4) No crowning.
b. By separating selves from assembly of saints.
(Heb. 12:24-26)
c. By seeking to overcome evil for evil.
(Rom. 12:17-21)
3. If they are attracted to God, they have no obstacle
can stand between them and the way of righteousness.
(1 Tim. 2:15, 1 Cor. 10:11, 1 Cor. 10:13, 1 Tim. 2:15)
The pathway is straight up to heaven. The
crooked river, winding down hill all day long,
empty into the dark sea of everlasting torment.
4. And you are a spiritual God. 1 Cor. 10:13
perfect accord with the will of the great
King.
5. That straight course is thus printed in
the heart, and sealed with the blood of the
Son of God.

Matt. 24:32-33 "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors."

Mt. 13:31-32 "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown it becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Ps. 92:12 "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Ps. 89:26 "He shall cry unto me, Thou art my Father, my God, and the rock of my salvation."

Acts 14:22 "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

I Thess. 3:3 "That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto."

I Jno. 3:11-12 "For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."

Jude 11 "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core."

Rom. 12:19-21 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Rom. 1:19 "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."

Mal. 4:2 "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

