

MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, 3500 Edwards Mill Road, Raleigh, NC 27612
NEWS & EVENTS – APRIL 2022

Phone... (919) 787-1910
E-mail: office@mobc.org
Web Page: www.mobc.org

SAM GORE, Senior Pastor
NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. (Acts 9:1-2)

I remember the days when my family used to take road trips from Texas to South Carolina. We would prepare by mapping out the journey with our Rand McNally Road Atlas. It was a big old book. We would plan the trip by trying to make certain destinations along the way in a certain amount of time so we would stay on schedule. The problem was that the interstate we were travelling was still incomplete in a couple of states and inevitably we would take detours. And usually this would give us the opportunity to get lost. We would lose our way. And I would be quick to ask my wife to go ask someone if they knew if the way we were traveling would lead us to where we were going. Some men just don't like to ask for directions it seems.

These days we can rely upon our GPS programs on our technological devices to warn us of the detours ahead, as well as the cheapest gas to buy, and road hazards, which include construction zones and speed traps by the law enforcement officials. Not that we'd need to be warned about the last hazard, right? The passage of Scripture before us describes the persecution of the followers of Jesus from the earliest days of Christianity.

Disciples of the Lord were characterized as Christian believers who belonged to the Way. Saul, before his name was changed to Paul, was a persecutor of the highest order. And he was zealous to say the least. He was not recruited by religious leaders but volunteered for the mission. He sought out the blessing of the high priest and secured written authorization for his endeavor. Let's call him a self-starter. He didn't need advice on how to seek, kill, and destroy. He was the disciples' greatest enemy and the devil's greatest friend. He hunted down those who belonged to the community of believers called the Way. You might say he was a Way Finder.

The "Way" is referred to several times in the Book of Acts. Evidently this term was used to describe the followers of the Lord Jesus within a generation after the Resurrection. The Way was not a philosophy, or a fanatic cult following, as much as it described the disciples who may even have been witnesses to the Resurrection. Their persecutors saw them as a threat to the old established religious order and needed to be eradicated. We are not the first generation to suffer through a cancel culture where dissenting voices are being silenced. The people who belonged to the Way were not only a group of believers...they belonged to the One who said that He was the Way. Jesus declared Himself to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He called disciples to follow Him. Here's a lesson for you and me today as we are certainly poised at this time in history for a persecution of purging. The evil at large in the world today belong to the legion of liars. It's time we began to stand out as those who still belong to the Way. It is here that we are at most risk of being disconnected to the Way. Christianity is not so much a group as it is a life. We must be connected to the Life of Christ to learn how to live life. Christian disciples, followers of Christ, are those who learn to live life in the face of death. The Life of Christ is still to be lived out within and among His people in the midst of an incredibly messy world.

Do you belong to the Way? Do you know the Way? It is more than a doctrine or a philosophy. It is more than a direction we are traveling. It is being personally connected to and belonging to Jesus. Being possessed by Him is a noble endeavor. Make it your mission to be one who belongs to Way. That early generation of disciples is a model of followers to be replicated. I am wondering lately if we are the terminal generation of the Way. And I wonder more if we will be those who belong to the Way have lost their way. Is it possible that some followers of Jesus are among us that will be described as overcomers who learned how to follow, no matter what? Consider:

And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death. (Revelation 12:11)

Whoever this Scripture is describing there is one thing we can know for sure...it's a hard road they're travelling...

Get ready for departure those of you belonging to the Way...Jesus is coming!!!

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam