

Testimony from a life-long “Church-goer”

I was raised in the Presbyterian church. My father was an elder and my mother was the church organist. When I was asked to give my testimony about 20 years ago, someone said to me “What do you possibly have to say? You’ve always been such a good person!” And there was the problem. God gradually revealed to me over 40 years of trying to be a good person that I never knew the Gospel.

In college, it occurred to me that I wasn’t quite sure if I was “good” enough. Was I doing what Jesus would do? Was my Christian lifestyle sufficient? Should I be adding more good works? Somehow, thinking I was in control of my life didn’t seem to be true, but it seemed to be working for me for the most part. Thanks to a good job and plenty of resources at my disposal, I was able to handle most of what life threw at me—until my husband abandoned me and my 2 year old son right after we had moved to a new city in the Midwest.

Now I was not in control of my circumstances at all. I didn’t know anyone; I was far from friends and family. I was a wreck. God now had the opportunity to start over with me again. He brought me to a good church. He brought me supportive Christian friends. And most importantly, he brought me the Gospel through Christian radio. I could not believe that I had been in church for nearly 40 years and I was just hearing the Good News of the Gospel for the first time. How could this have happened? The Old Testament suddenly made sense as it revealed the plan of salvation through the people of Israel and I rejoiced in understanding the unfolding mystery.

God taught me that there was nothing I could do to put my life into control and there was nothing I could do to save myself. I had to trust HIM day by day. It was all of HIM! For everything is from Him, and to Him, and through Him. Even my faith came from HIM! I was the lost sheep who was picked up and carried home by Shepherd. We therefore give Him the glory—Soli Deo Gloria—for everything. Once I realized that I contributed absolutely nothing to my salvation (“It is by grace you are saved”), I was able to rest in the loving care of the Good Shepherd. My anxiety level decreased and my struggle with “works” was over. “We were created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared **in advance** for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).” Soli Deo Gloria!