

Apples of Gold

Zvi Kalisher's life-changing spiritual conversations

<https://www.foi.org/zvikalisher/>

UPON THEM A LIGHT HAS SHINED

Once every two months, I take my wife to the hospital for a checkup on her eye following her cornea transplant. The last time we were there, two Russian priests sat next to us. We began conversing, and our discussion quickly turned to the matter of faith.

They were very sure of themselves and showed me their commentaries, which they were positive contained the root of faith. They reminded me of the many ultra-Orthodox Jews I have spoken to over the years—trusting in the words of men rather than in God's Word.

I showed them my small Bible and asked, "Which book is of greater value?"

One answered, "We do not want to see anything in Hebrew because we do not speak that language."

I replied, "If you like, I will give you a complete translation of any passage in this book." Then I asked, "Have you ever heard about the Bible?"

"Oh yes," he replied, "Do you have a copy with you?" To their surprise, I told them the little book I held in my hand was the Bible.

When we began to speak about Christ, the priests were sure they were in their own element. I told them, "We must believe in Jesus Christ, not according to your commentaries, but according to the Bible. This book

alone shows us how to come to the Lord.”

The new Russian immigrants in the waiting room also listened attentively to our conversation, and most of them agreed that true faith in God comes only according to the Bible. The priests said, “We do not believe what they say.”

I told them, “This is not the belief of Jews only. For the millions of genuine Christians, the most important book is the Bible.”

These people are walking in darkness because they have never found the true way to faith in Christ. I was not surprised when one of the priests asked, “How did you, a Jew, come to believe in Christ?”

I replied, “I can tell from your question how blind you are; you do not even know from which people Jesus came. You must read the Bible, not your fictitious books.”

They asked where in the Bible it was written that Jesus was Jewish. I said, “Moses spoke of Jesus coming from the Jewish people.” I then read Deuteronomy 18:15, 18: “The LORD your God will raise up for you [meaning the Jewish people] a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear. I will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.” I continued, “The Bible clearly explains Christ’s earthly heritage. The Bible is the root of our faith, not your books.”

After further conversation, one of the immigrants asked, “How can a Jew be so faithful to another religion?”

I responded, “I know you call yourselves good Jews because you follow the rabbinical traditions, but read the Bible and see what the Lord truly wants from us. He wants us to obey His commandments. In God’s Word

we read of the faith of our fathers—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—and the words of our prophets. This book has been hidden from you in Russia for a long time. Even here in Israel, you are only told about the Old Testament. But if you would study that carefully—especially Isaiah 53, which is never read in the synagogues—you would see for yourselves it speaks of Jesus Christ.”

They were very surprised. “That is impossible!” one exclaimed.

I replied, “It is true.” I then read and explained Isaiah 53.

This was a wonderful witnessing opportunity. As it is written in Isaiah 9:2, “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.”

