

God Loves You

By August 2018, there were over 4,200 known religions in the world. These religions consisted of a wide verity ranging from the most primitive to Christianity. In all of these religions except for Christianity, the god of the respective religion did nothing for the adherents while at the same time expecting, yea demanding, total obedience and allegiance. In some of the religions, if an adherent strayed away from the belief or became disobedient in some other way, then the adherent would be subject to severe punishment from other followers, even to the point of death. Some religions are so strict that animals receive better treatment than women do. There have been volumes of books written about religions and the question that begs to be answered is this, exactly what did the religion do for the followers? Does it not seem strange that the followers of any given religion must give and not receive? Followers dying for the god of their religion, but when did their god ever die for them? In any of their religious writings is there anything written about the love of their god? So then, it appears they must have a love for their god, but does he love them?

There is one **TRUE** God and He is the one who created this world and everything in it, including all human beings. Even though we are sinners by birth and deed, God loves us so much that He was willing to die for us. The Bible tells us that there is one God, one deity manifested in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. {2 Corinthians 13:14} Jesus Christ is God the Son, **THE** one who created the world and us. {John 1:1-3} God knew in eternity past that we would be sinners in need of salvation and He determined to make provision for us. {1 Peter 1:19-20} How would He make this provision? It would be by the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Because God is a spirit and a spirit cannot die, Jesus Christ had to leave Heaven and come to earth in the form of a man. A virgin {Mary} was conceived of by the Holy Ghost and she had absolutely nothing to do with Mary becoming pregnant with the Christ child. {Matthew 1:18-25} With a body of flesh, He could experience a physical death. Jesus was still God but He was God incarnate {made in the flesh} and He was totally without sin and did not have a sin nature like you and I.

God is holy and a God of justice. He is also a God of justice and does not tolerate wickedness and He has warned us what the consequence is for sinful people. {Romans 6:23} "For the wages of sin is death;" Romans 6:23 a) Anyone who dies without trusting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour will not have his or her name recorded in God's Book of Life. **ALL** of those whose names are not in the Book of Life will spend eternity in hell {the lake of fire and brimstone}. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:15} It does not have to end that way because of God's love for our eternal souls. **Please**, take the time to read a few verses from the Bible about how much God loves us. Words in bold and underlined are for emphasis by the writer.

"For **God so loved** the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16}

"But **God commendeth his love** toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." {Romans 5:8}

"But **God**, who is **rich in mercy**, for his great love wherewith he **loved us**, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)" {Ephesians 2:4-5}

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the **Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**" {Galatians 2:20}

"Hereby perceive we the **love of God**, because he **laid down his life for us:**" {1 John 3:16}

Jesus referred to as the Lamb of God. ". . . Behold the **Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**" {John 1:29}

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of **Christ**, as of a **lamb** without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19}

In chapter 9 of Hebrews we read how the blood of certain animals was only a temporary atonement for sin. We also read how the blood of Jesus Christ was **THE** final and permanent atonement so sin.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." "And we have beheld and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." {1 John 4:19}

The most wonderful news is that Jesus Christ, God the Son, **only** loves us so much that He paid our sin debt, He also lives today - this moment and as you read these lines, He is in Heaven at God the Father's right hand. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for* all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;" {Hebrews 10:10-12}

There is only one **TRUE** God, and, He is a God of love; His love is so great for us that He was willing to die for us so that our sin debt would be forever, paid for. He has done all that He can possibly do for our salvation. What remains today is for men and women to repent of their sin and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour. "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." {Luke 13:3} God is patient and He wants to save all who will repent. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Call on Jesus Christ **TODAY** for forgiveness and salvation; He will forgive and save you. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13}

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2018

All Scripture references are KJV