

Religious and Lost

Religion, as defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary, is [1] the service and worship of God or the supernatural [2] commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance [3] a personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices.

There is an estimated 10,000 dominate religions in the world and, quite possibly, many more non-dominate religions we have never heard of. So many religions and so many religious people! So many religions and so many religiously deceived people; they have their religion but, their religion, cannot forgive their sin and give them eternal life.

The Apostle Paul was in Athens where he went to a place called Areopagus, Mars' Hill. It was a place almost in the center of the city where the supreme judges of Athens would assemble. Here, on this hill, Paul said, "...Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious." [religious] {Acts 17:22} Here they had so many religions and, being so religious, they even had an altar [more of a monument] to an unknown god for fear that they may have inadvertently missed one. Seizing upon this unknown god, Paul began to explain who the **TRUE** God was as he told about Jesus Christ who is God the Son. Years have passed by, people have come and gone, a few old religions have since ceased while new religions have emerged. All these religions have one thing in common – they are all false and leading people down a primrose path to a Devil's hell.

Paul explained that there is only one **TRUE** God and that He dwells in Heaven. "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." {1 John 5:7} The "Word" is Jesus Christ, God the Son. This world and everything in it were created by Him and, eventually, He took to Himself the body of a man. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." {John 1:1} "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us," {John 1:14} He had one purpose in doing this, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." {Luke 19:10} God the Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay our sin debt and provide eternal life. "or 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} Salvation is necessary because, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:23}

Religions of the world teach that a person must do some good work or make a payment to be redeemed but, the Bible says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: **Not of works**, lest any man should boast." {Ephesians 2:8-9} Our redemption {forgiveness of sin} is made possible **ONLY** by Jesus Christ. "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} World religions teach that if you fail to perform a certain deed or oath that you will be rejected. The Bible clearly tells that, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} Jesus Christ has never rejected a repentant sinner. "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and **him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**" {John 6:37}

Religions of the world will always fail, for they are wrong. Jesus Christ and He alone can and will forgive and save a person if he will repent of sin and trust Him as Saviour. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out," {Acts 3:19 a} "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." {1 John 1:9} "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;" {Romans 3:24-25}

My friend, you may be religious but unless you have repented of sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, trusted Him as personal Saviour, you are lost. Religious but lost, but you need not be that way. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11, 13}

It is my prayer that you will repent and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour – today!

--Richard A. Ciarrocca

All Scripture references are KJV