

## What is Religion? – Part Two

By

Rev. Louis Showers, Sr.  
Goshen, Indiana

In addressing ourselves to the subject of religion, we note that one Biblical fact, historical fact, an anthropological fact that is true no matter where we go in the world. It is true among all humans in all cultures. This universal fact is: there is a need for confession of sin and there is the consciousness of guilt in our inner self. Therefore we find man involved in many different means to try to rid himself of this reality of life.

Man knows there is One who he must face one day to answer for his life and for what he has done with his life. Like Adam and Eve, who used fig leaves to try to cover their sins to make them acceptable to God, mankind has tried religions, philosophies, etc. to accomplish the same thing. But like Adam and Eve's meeting with God, they will wish they had something else to hide behind to avoid God's judgment for sin.

Who has the right to question religious people about their sincerity in their beliefs and practices? Some have paid extensive personal sacrifices to try to cover the consequences of their sins. Some have even taken their own lives physically to try to find the peace and forgiveness of sin. The fact of the matter is that even among those who claim that they are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, having personally received him into their hearts and lives by faith and declaring that they believe God when he says he forgives them, and has given to them right now the gift of salvation, the gift of eternal life that will never end...among these we find the Devil tries one of his tricks to try to make them religious. Therefore, all believers have to guard against denying to others our trust in faith as the one and only means of salvation by being religious.

It is interesting in studying the cults and religions of our world to discover that they borrow so much from Biblical teachings to apply to their religion, even including Jesus Christ in their beliefs. But the same time they deny the Lord Jesus Christ of the Bible who is the Son of God and God the Son, the Creator of all that is, the Lamb of God, the King of kings, the judge of all the earth. Jesus is not interested in being included in religious teaching, He is interested only in being received into the hearts and minds of us one and all.

Some religions come from man's own imagination, and others were started by Satan who the Bible calls the great deceiver and a liar. How cleverly he has started some religions. For example, there are at least two religions in our world today where their founders declare they received special revelations from an angel. We will not deny that this may have been true, but we will declare by the authority of the Bible that those angels did not come from God himself. Galatians 1:8,9 declares "that though we or an angels from heaven preach any other gospel to you than what has been revealed in the Bible, they are under the curse of God." So important was this to God the Holy Spirit, the author of the Bible that he repeated this serious warning twice in the text. The Bible, God's Holy Word, in both Old Testament and New Testament dogmatically declares that there is only one Son that God had and his name is Jesus Christ. That Bible declares that no matter how many good works we do, no matter how much faith we have in our religion, no matter how sincere we are it is all to no avail.

Jesus declared in John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son, shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." Jesus said in John 14:6 "no man cometh unto God but by me. Believe God and find the joy, peace, assurance of your eternal destiny being already settled before you die, by making Christ Jesus your Savior.