

BY T.L. OSBORN

I HAVE SHARED Christ with multitudes in over 80 nations – among people of most major religions in our world. I am astounded by the variety of *religions* that exist today. Most nations have several religions. A few forbid any but their national religion.

God created humankind in His own likeness. *Gen.1:27* He loves us. This leaflet will help you to realize that we can never find God through *religion*. It is a ritual. God is *LIFE*.

Observing the results of hundreds of *religions* in our world, it becomes clear that one religion is as valid as another. But *religion* can never bring salvation and peace to a person.

I have seen people burn incense, sacrifice offerings, and pray to large images. But they went away without an answer. No miracle was wrought. No change occurred in their lives.

I've watched people torture themselves, walk through fire, cut their flesh, flagellate their bodies until blood ran from their wounds. I've watched others stick pins, nails and hooks through their flesh. But when their ritual was ended, there was no change in their lives. No transformation resulted. No peace was received. They would return to repeat the same rites and to endure the same pain in their

incessant, but fruitless quest for peace with God (or the gods).

I've seen people who crawled long distances, until their knees and hands bled, or who sat for hours looking at the sun until they were blind, or go long periods without food. But there was no spiritual recompense.

Others perform rites and chant long incantations, but no new life comes; no salvation is experienced.

*Religion* can never bring peace to one's life. It is a ritual, a ceremony.

Only God, Who created us, can give us peace. He alone has shown us *The Way* to peace – the *Only Way*. It comes through faith in what Jesus Christ accomplished in His death on the cross.

Salvation is a *new Life from God* that is miraculously engendered within you. It is not a ceremony that you perform. No religion can impart new *Life* or beget *peace* in the human heart.

Man and woman were created perfect and in harmony with God. But Satan persuaded Adam and Eve that God's Word was not true. *Gen.2:15-17; 3:3-4* **That was sin, and sin separated them from God.** As a result, humanity senses guilt and shame before God and to cure that, religions are invented by spiritual philosophers. They express the human

peace with God, but the Way to Him has been lost and the search through the rites of *religion* is always futile.

God has provided *The Way* *Ac.24:14; Jn.14:6* for us to be redeemed and ransomed from the power of our sins. He sent His Son Jesus who came and was crucified. He died on the cross for us, to suffer the punishment of *our* sins, in *our* place.

Since He assumed all judgment for our sins, our record is purged forever, when we believe that Christ died *for us*. Now He can come into our lives and impart to us His *Divine Life* with eternal salvation.

The Bible says, *There is salvation in no other: There is none other Name whereby we must be saved. Ac. 4:12* Call His Name **JESUS:** *for He shall save His people from their sins. Mt. 1:21*

Salvation is found only in Jesus Christ, God's Son, who endured the full judgment of our sins, in order to free us from condemnation. Jesus is our Savior. *Religion* can never save.

Jesus told about two men who prayed. One trusted in *religion*. The other knew that He was a sinner and needed a new life from God.

The *religious* man prayed, bragging about himself: *I thank God that I am not as others are, unjust, adulterers, or like that sinner there.* Then he extolled his good works telling how he *gave money to his religion and fasted.* *Lu.18:11-12*

Then the other poor man prayed, not even feeling worthy to lift his head, but he *smote his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.* *Lu.18:13*

Jesus said that the last man received mercy but that the *religious* man received nothing. *v.14*

Another very pious man came to Jesus. The Bible says he was a *religious* ruler. His religion had high moral stan-

dards. He recited long prayers and fasted for days. But Jesus knew that all of his *religion* was without value – ineffective. He told the man, *You must be born again.* *Jn.3:7*

The religious man was shocked, but Jesus explained, *Except a person is born again, he or she cannot see the kingdom of God.* *v.5*


No *religion* can purge one's record of sin. Only Jesus has ransomed us from sin's dominion. *Christ is the sacrifice that takes away the sin of the world.* *Jn.1:29* He has loved us and has given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice. *Eph.5:2* God has given Him as a propitiation through faith in His blood, for the remission of our sins. *Rom.3:25*

We must face the fact that the wages of sin is death. *Ro.6:23* God has no pleasure in the soul that dies. *Eze.18:32* He says: *Come to me and receive Life.* *Jn.5:40* Do not trust in the rituals and the incantations of religion. Trust the sacrifice of Christ that has ransomed you.

Religion is a ritual. God gives *Life*. The Bible says, *God has given to us Eternal Life, and this Life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has Life; but whoever has not the Son has not Life.* *1Jn.5:11-12*

Being saved is receiving the *Miracle Life of God*. It is a new birth – a new beginning. You were born of the flesh, which was your natural birth. But Jesus says, *You must be born again.*

When He saves you, He imparts to you His *Eternal Life*. You become a *new creation* *2Co.5:17* – a new person. Your guilt dissipates. You experience a new beginning with *Divine Life*.

No *religion* can beget that *New Life from God*. Even the *Christian religion* cannot impart Christ's *Life*. No church, no religion can save you. Jesus is the only Savior. Only His blood can purge your sins. Believe in Him. Accept Him today by faith. He alone can impart His new *Life* to you. May God bless you! 

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