

# DOES BEING RELIGIOUS=SALVATION?

*Al Brown*

When Paul was allowed to speak to the Athenian philosophers, he began his discourse with these words: “Ye men of Athens, in all things, I perceive that ye are very religious” (Acts 17:22). They may have been religious, but clearly, they were not saved; they were heathens. This inspired statement should impress on us the truth that salvation requires more than just being religious.

Jesus applied the same principle when He said:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy by thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Mat. 7:21-23).

Just being religious will not result in eternal salvation because in the process, men ignore the will of God and practice a humanly-devised religion. The Lord assures us such people are practicing a vain religion—one that is repulsive to God. Jesus repeated this timeless principle again when He said:

...ye have made void the word of God because of your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, Teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men (Mat. 15:6-9).

It is extremely dangerous to assume God will accept whatever man chooses to believe, yet all of “Christendom” is based on this devil’s lie. The Lord insists that every facet of religion be based on the revealed will of God (Col. 3:17). All will be judged at the last Day by the Scriptures (John 12:48), not by men’s opinions. In fact, Jesus said, in reference to humanly-devised religion: “Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be rooted up” (Mat. 15: 13). It is amazing that most refuse to believe this God-given truth and go on their merry way believing and doing that which is an abomination to God. Paul assures us:

...at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power in flaming fire, rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus: who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 The. 1:7-9).

Don’t risk eternal life. Believe and obey the gospel (the Word of God)!~

*Deceased*