

“Let your ‘religion’ be less of a theory and more of a love affair.” — Chesterton

In the Mud

Author Unknown

When Napoleon invaded Egypt, he encountered a force ensconced in a mud fort that effectually defied all his efforts to destroy it. If it had been built of rock, he could have blown it up with powder, or crushed it with artillery; if it had been of wood, he could have fired it with a rocket and it would have burned. However, it was a huge mass of mud, in which his iron missiles stuck fast, and did little damage. He therefore left the place in despair, and turned his attention to more practical targets.

What this mud fort was to the French soldiery, a cold, dead church is to the world of ungodly men. They are effectually protected behind this mass of seeming “religious” carnality, and utterly defy all the moral artillery of the Gospel. The heavenly missiles stick fast in this intervening obstacle, and never reach their mark because of a cold, damp barrier with no real concrete standards or spiritual authority.

Their man-made religion absorbs much of what is thrown at it, and seldom reacts to godly truths.

Sham Christians

C. H. Spurgeon

The character Talkative in Pilgrim’s Progress is well described. I have met gentlemen like him many times, and can bear witness that John Bunyan, the author of the book, was a photographer before photography was invented. The character Christian said of Talkative, “He talketh of prayer, of repentance, of faith, and of the new birth; but he knows but only to talk of them. I have been with his family, and his house is as empty of what he talks about. He does not practice what he preaches.”

We have too many such persons around us who appear to be living a godly life, but are proven to be mere shams. As stores put dummies in their shops, dressed and made to be attractive they are still only shells and lifeless. So many that call themselves Christians and try to look the part are also empty and spiritually lifeless. The grace of God is not in them.

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Are You Really Sure?

Bill Brinkworth

I have prayed for many people to be saved and have talked to many about what the Bible says one must do to know for sure that they will one day go to Heaven. Some of them are secure in their own religion. Many adhere to their own beliefs, even when they are shown Bible verses that teach contrary to what their religion teaches. They will not be swayed.



I was thinking the other day that they will not be moved, because they are convinced that their religion is right. Often they cannot fathom that as large, popular, or as old as their cult is that it could be wrong. However, as anchored to their beliefs as they are, not one of those that I have witnessed to has ever made one effort to sway me to their beliefs. It seems to me, if they were convinced they were following cor-

rect doctrine they would not want anyone else to go in a wrong spiritual direction; especially when it involved their eternal soul.

The logical reasons for their not sharing their beliefs with others must be because:

1. They are trusting wholly on what their religion teaches, and that it is right. However, they still harbor some doubt.

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Unbiblical Beliefs

Bill Brinkworth

After speaking to many people about how the Bible tells us we can go to Heaven, I have heard many beliefs that are not found in the Bible; and therefore are not what God has revealed to man. Some of them include:

“There is more than one way to get to heaven,” and “There are many different roads to heaven.” Those philosophies are never mentioned in the Word of God. The point of the Bible is to state and preserve God’s plans and commands to all mankind. Even

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Are You Really Sure?

Bill

2. They may not really know all their faction believes, and they do not want to be challenged.
3. They may not be convinced that the Bible is God's Word, and that its teaching is His only way.
4. They do not really care for my soul. They are only concerned about themselves.
5. They may believe, as they were taught, that no one can know for sure that they would go to Heaven when they die.
6. They may believe that there is one God, but many ways to get to His Heaven. So they are not concerned that Bible-believers believe differently than they do!
7. They may believe there is no Hell, and that all will go to Heaven or a place like it.
8. They do not really take the after-life seriously!

Whatever the reason, it seems many with beliefs not in alignment to what the Bible teaches do not have the burden to reach others. It may be just as well so their false teachings are not spread to confuse more people and hinder so many from being saved and having God's promise of an eternity with Him.

Are you really sure what you believe is correct? Many are trusting their eternal soul with teachings that are recent, ever changing, and are often just a man's or an organization's beliefs. A real, reliable faith should be based on a source that comes straight from God, has been around from man's beginning, and has been proven reliable throughout all ages. The only media that still exists today and fits that description is God's Word, the Bible. Does what you believe about God, and eternity line-up with God's preserved word, or are you trusting on an unreliable man-made religion?

Unbiblical Beliefs

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suggesting that man can believe and do what he wants to get to Heaven is contrary to the Bible's teachings. It is man's way that got him in the sinful state he is in. Only God's Way is the way to salvation. It is God's Heaven, and there is only one way to get there — His!

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

"We are all children of God!" If that philosophy were true, and we were all children of

God; why is there a Hell, and why were we warned about it so we would not go there? Also, why did Christ die for us, if all are going to Heaven? The truth is, no one is a child of God unless he is born into God's family by a spiritual birth.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

"We'll see so-an-so in heaven." In many situations, when discussing the whereabouts of a deceased person, many assume that the person is in Heaven without knowing anything about his spiritual decisions and condition when on this earth. Quite frequently at funerals it is mentioned, possibly so people's feelings will not be hurt, that the person that the service is for is in Heaven; when the person never made any profession or ever indicated that he was trusting Christ as Saviour. They very well may have been saved and therefore in Heaven, but the way so many talk is that all are going to Heaven, and only the "really bad people" are going to Hell.

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Mat. 7:23 Also: Mat. 25:12.

"I'm a good person, so I'll go to Heaven." The Bible does not teach that either. It teaches the opposite. The Bible says we are all sinners because of our having been born into sin and also because of our commission

of sin. Because of our sin, we cannot go to Heaven unless we do what God says we must do to get there; and that is to be saved. No one is a "good" person. All are sinners!

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Rom. 3:23 Also: Rom. 3:10.

"If God is going to put people in Hell, then I don't want to have any part of Him or Heaven." That statement immediately condemns the person as one who does not see the seriousness of where he is heading eternally. He is rejecting God's plan of salvation.

"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 2:21

God does not want anyone to perish in Hell (II Peter 3:9). He has clearly shown in His preserved Word the only way anyone can go to Heaven. It is only His way that will get anyone there; not man's way. That way is by trusting that Jesus' death on the cross as the only payment God will accept for anyone's sin. That belief is the only one that will get anyone to Heaven!

"A religion that is small enough for our understanding is not great enough for our need." — Balfour

"The appearance of religion only on Sunday proves that it is only an appearance." — Adams