



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

March 12, 2017

RELIGIOUS MYTHS

There are many so-called “myths” out in the religious world. Many people believe things that have been created by man, but no evidence can be found of this “myth” within Scripture. Millions of people are going to be disappointed when it comes to the Day of Judgment and they have placed so much faith in the words of man. Let’s discuss a couple of these “myths.”

Many people believe that “just living a good life” is all that is required to get to heaven. “If I don’t steal anything major, stay faithful to my spouse, don’t kill anyone, or just generally try to be a good person, I will go to heaven,” is often the belief of many. But if “just being a good person” saves you, why then does the Bible teach differently. Take the case of Cornelius in **Acts 10**. Cornelius was described as upright, devout, prayerful, fearing God, giving generously to those in need, respected by all Jews. He would definitely be considered a “good” man. But even Cornelius was told that he had things he needed to do in order to be in obedience to God’s Word. *“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (Acts 10:48)*. Being a Christian involves more than just being a “good” person.

Many other people believe just having a faith in God will save you and will get you the reward of Heaven. If faith only saves us, why then does the Bible teach us more has to be done? In **James 2** we are given multiple accounts that we must have more than just faith to be saved. Faith is definitely important, but there is more to salvation than that alone. *“So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17)*. If we are not in obedience to God’s Word (works), then our faith is worthless and dead. Our faith must drive us to obedience to God’s Word. Without that obedience we will not be found acceptable in God’s eyes.

Don’t believe the words of man. Take the evidence from within the Bible and live your life according to those words.

Nick Pace, revised

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Worship Service 10:45 am
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Bible Study 7:30 pm

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SIN

We've all heard the story of the preacher who was asked, "What are you preaching on Sunday?" He responded, "Sin." The questioner retorted, "Well are you for or against it?" It seems sin is a taboo topic in our world today. The politically correct movement wants us to use words like "illness," "mistake," "misguided" or some other term that will not make someone feel guilty or responsible for sin.

However, sin is an important subject and it is dealt with through out the Bible. We need to be warned of sin's danger. We need to understand its consequences. We should remind people the price paid for it. The entirety of Scripture surrounds God's plan to redeem mankind from the penalty and problems of sin.

Jesus gave His life because all accountable human beings have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (**Romans 3:23**). This problem of sin comes at a high price and the penalty is DEATH (**Romans 3:23; Ezekiel 18:20**). It seems the devil spends all his energy and time tricking and tempting us to sin (**I Peter 5:8**). Our advocate who helps us overcome the wicked one gave His life as ransom and payment for the sins of every person who will accept that pardon (**I John 2:1**).

Sin creates a rift between God and mankind because God is of purer eyes than to behold evil (**Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 59:1-2**). The only thing that reconciles us back to the Father is the blood of His dear Son (**Hebrews 10:4; Colossians 1:20**). It is through Christ that God's price is satisfied (**I John 2:1-2**).

The gospel message is that Jesus receives repentant sinners. He frees us from the curse of sin (**Revelation 1:5**). When you think of the high price paid to save you and me it should cause us to flee even the appearance of sinfulness. If you are a Christian will you not share the Good News that Sin cannot defeat us, that Jesus paid the debt for our transgression?

Erdmann Neumeister penned these beautiful words that remind us of the cheer bring words:

Sinner Jesus will receive;
Sound this word of grace to all
Who the heavenly pathway leave,
All who linger, all who fall.
Come, and He will give you rest;
Trust Him, for His Word is plain;
He will take the sinfulest;
Christ receive sinful men.
Christ receive sinful men,
Even me with all my sin;
Purged from every spot and stain,
Heaven with Him I enter in.
Sing it o'er and over again;
Christ receiveth sinful men;
Make the message clear and plain:
Christ receiveth sinful men.

We need to be talking about sin a lot more. We need to expose its ugliness and teach the world how to be freed from it.

Joseph D. Chase, revised