

NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

Christianity vs. Religion Part 2

In our last lesson we learned how false religion is designed to keep people from living a life of freedom in Christ, to keep people “working” to “earn” God’s love, peace, and salvation. How do we protect ourselves from false religion? We must read our Bibles, obey what it says, and pray every day so the Truth can protect us.

Philippians 4:6-7 *“do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*

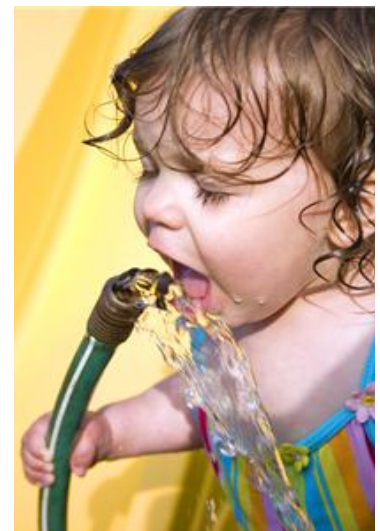
Do you remember our story from last lesson about riding your bike to school every day? We described how differently you see life once you look at it through the “glasses” of the Word of God. You begin seeing clearly and are motivated to “ride your bike safely” (obey the rules) because of your love for God and others. You end up obeying more now that you are motivated by love than when you were motivated by fear and a desire to impress! The Bible tells us that we are commanded to love.

John 15:12 *“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.”*

If we love God and others, we will obey. We learn to love by learning the Word of God. Without it filling our thoughts and motivating us, we are blinded to the truth, which is what sets us free (**John 8:32**). Our soul thirsts for truth and if we do not satisfy it with God’s Word, the world will gladly quench our “thirst” with lies. These lies are like salt water which only makes us thirstier! Only the Word of God can truly quench our thirst for Truth.

In Old Testament times, God’s rules for His people was called the Law. He gave the Law in order to reveal to them that it is impossible for anyone to perfectly obey and keep themselves sinless. That is what made Jesus, in His humanity, so amazing. He was the only Human ever born who was able to fulfill the law. He NEVER sinned. He NEVER even had a single mean thought! WOW! He is also both God and man, and, therefore, entirely unique. There is no one like Him!

Like we were saying, the purpose of the Old Testament Law was to show people how much they needed a Savior- that



they could never be “perfect enough” to save themselves from sin and be able to live with God in Heaven for all of eternity. Sadly, many did not accept the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He came to Earth! Why? Because it takes humility- we have to accept the fact that we are not perfect, that we need to be saved from sin, and that we are unable to do it ourselves. Religion breeds arrogant thinking, which says, “I do not need a Savior, I can do it myself and I do not need a Lord, I am my own boss”! The Bible says...

James 4:10 *“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.”*

In its arrogance, religion also says that believing and trusting in the person and work of Jesus Christ for salvation is just “too easy”. It asks questions like, “What about the really “BAD” sinners like murderers? Are you saying they can receive this kind of grace, too? You mean to tell me that these bad people can be saved and spend eternity with God the same way that I can?” Well, what does the Bible have to say?

James 2:10 *“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.”*

If we commit even one sin, then we are guilty of ALL sin because we immediately become imperfect! As you can see, then, we are ALL sinners and we are ALL imperfect. So, the answer to the questions above is, “yes”, a murderer can be saved just the way you can be- by belief and trust in the person and saving work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Religion wants to add human works to the simple truth of the Gospel so people can take credit for their own salvation. The Bible clearly states that the gift of salvation is not earned and is done apart from any human works. We cannot work for, earn, or take the credit for salvation. Jesus Christ is the one who worked for, earned, and gets all the credit for the salvation of His children.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

Thank you, Lord, for your work on our behalf. Thank you for offering this indescribable gift to us sinners and inviting us to live our lives for you and spend eternity with you.