

What Difference Does One's Religion Make?

Galatians 1:6-10,2:4-5

Introduction:

- A. Popular concept is it does not make any difference "so long as"
 1. No difference who or what is worshiped just so you worship a higher power.
 2. No difference what church you attend so long as it is "Christian" or maybe "church of Christ"
 3. No difference what you do in worship and service to God so long as you are sincere.
- B. The Bible teaches that there was such a thing as truth and error, right and wrong, in religion.
 1. Paul would have nothing but truth of the gospel. (1:8; 2:5,14)
 2. James spoke of "pure/undefiled" and "vain" religion. (Jas. 1:26,27).
- C. Let us let the Bible answer important questions about religion.

Discussion:

I. Does it Make a Difference How One Is Saved?

- A. Makes a difference in whose name we are saved (Acts 4:12)
- B. Made a difference to Paul and others as to the plan of salvation.
 1. Some tried to introduce different plan. (Acts 15:1-2, 7-11).
 2. Recalled original plan. (15:10,11; cf. Acts 10-11; Acts 2:38)
- C. Makes little difference if listen to modern preachers.
 1. Do anything or nothing, wait for God to act.
 2. Saved with or without Baptism. (Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)
 3. Saved with or without the church. (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23).

II. Does it Make a Difference How One Worships God?

- A. Cannot merely "worship God" (John 4:24; Matt 15:9, 13)
- B. Makes a difference *what* we offer in worship (cf Lev. 10:1-2)
 1. Singing is authorized (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) - Not instrument.
 2. Prayer is authorized (1 Tim. 2:1-4) - Not counting beads, etc.
 3. Teaching - Preaching is authorized. (Acts 20:7) - Not side show.
 4. First day Lord's Supper in assembly (1 Cor. 11; Acts 20:7)
 5. First day collection (1 Cor. 16:1,2)
- C. Makes a difference *how* we offer our worship. (1 Cor. 14:40; 2 Cor. 9:7).

III. Does it Make a Difference How One Works in Religion?

- A. Bible must be standard of "good work". (2 Tim. 3:16,17).
- B. One can work hard in religion and still be lost.
 1. Zealously working to establishing own righteousness. (Rom. 10:1-4)
 2. Do many "wonderful" works but without law. (Matt. 7:21ff)

IV. Does it Make a Difference How One Lives as a Christian?

- A. Cannot live anyway we please. (cf. Gal. 2:11-16; Tit. 2:11,12)
- B. Cannot use grace as license to sin. (Rom. 6:1ff; Heb. 10:26ff.)
 1. Many concepts of grace do this.
 2. Many use as excuse for relaxed diligence. (cf. Heb. 2:1-4).

Conclusion:

- A. Beware of "it makes no difference" as long as:
 1. Have been saved right.
 2. Or, are worshiping right.
 3. Or, are working right.
 4. Are living right (morally).
- B. It takes all four make the big difference.