

"I Am The Way. . ."

by Wayne Goff

In John 14:6 when Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" -- He meant it! This eliminates every other religion and any other means. The New Testament illustrates this truth by showing us who is saved by Jesus Christ.

The Morally Good

In Acts 10, Cornelius was a morally good man. He is described as "a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always" (v. 2). But his moral goodness did not save him for God told him to send for the apostle Peter "who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14).

The Religiously Wrong

The apostle Paul is seen in Philippi speaking with Lydia and other women who devoutly worshiped God by the river's bank. Lydia's heart was opened so that she listened to Paul's message. Her response was to be baptized, along with all her household (Acts 16:14-15). She was quite religious, but still in need of salvation.

Likewise, Crispus, a ruler of the synagogue in Corinth, believed the gospel of Jesus Christ and was baptized (Acts 18:8). These individuals were very religious, but when they saw their error then they repented and were baptized.

Those In High Places

It matters not what station in life one holds, God makes all men accountable to Him. The rich and the poor are equally accountable to God. The famous and the anonymous are both known to God. The gospel is to be preached to "all men everywhere" (Acts 17:30) and God expects them to repent! One notable example in Acts 8 is of an Ethiopian Eunuch. Most of us know the story well from our Bible classes, but have you ever stopped to ponder Luke's description of this man? He was "a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury..." (Acts 8:27). It is amazing to consider the great power and influence of this man and then see his tremendous honesty and humility in submitting to the Word of God! Beloved, do not think that all political leaders are evil. This Ethiopian made the difficult trip to Jerusalem to worship God, and was reading his Bible diligently on the way back home. God sees and knows these things and treats us accordingly. Seeing the goodness of the Ethiopian, God made sure a gospel preacher made it to his chariot, preached the gospel to him, giving him the opportunity to be saved.

One simple question you and I need to ask ourselves: "Would God send a preacher to us?"

The Deceived

How do you save those who have been religiously deceived? By teaching them the truth of God's Word. Truth has nothing to fear from investigation. It may be that those who have been deceived will see the difference when they finally learn the truth. Such was the case in Acts 8 when Philip traveled to the city of Samaria and preached Christ and His kingdom to the Samaritans. The multitudes listened carefully to Philip "hearing and seeing the miracles which he did" (Acts 8:6). But these people were the deceived! Simon the Sorcerer had convinced these Samaritans that he was a great man from God "to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest" (Acts 8:10). But when they heard the gospel for the first time, they heard, believed and were baptized (Acts 8:12).

Conclusion

We could go on illustrating the point, but I hope you see it. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all men everywhere, Mark 16:16. It is for those who are sick with sin, spiritually dead, and in need of salvation. Will we give them a chance?

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