

Salvation Not by Religion By Greg Rangel

Unfortunately we live in a politically correct society in which one cannot share opposing views because he or she will be labeled as hateful and controversial extremist. Everybody seems to be right in everything that they believe and say, regardless of how off the wall it might be. And as long as one truly believes what they believe with all their heart and mind, then it makes it automatically true.

This type of reasoning and philosophy is a dangerous thing because it will lead people into grave error. But unfortunately there are many who follow this type of reasoning which believe in spiritual doctrines that are not found in Scripture. Proverbs 14:12 says; *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

When it comes to religious views everybody seems to say that their church or organization is the only and true way unto heaven because Christ established their religion, or because since Christianity went into apostasy at the death of the last Apostle, Jesus raised up their leader and founder of their religion and through him or her Jesus will be restoring Christianity to what it was meant to be. For example, the Roman Catholic Church says that they are the true Church of Jesus Christ and one must be a Catholic if he wants the chance to be saved; “The Second Vatican Council’s Decree on Ecumenism explains: ‘for it is through Christ’s Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained.’” And due to this teaching, that is why there are millions of faithful Catholics who believe that they are safe eternally because of the religion that they belong to” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, pg. 234, paragraph 816).

The Jehovah Witnesses which was founded by Charles Taze Russell who was born back on February 16, 1852 also believe that they are the only and true organization of which in which one must belong to in order to be secured eternally. “To receive everlasting life in the earthly Paradise we must identify that organization and serve God as part of it” (The Watchtower, Feb. 15, 1983: 12). And even though with all of their failed prophecies on the return of Jesus Christ that they have issued throughout the years, there are also millions of faithful Jehovah Witnesses followers that believe that they are also secure eternally because of their membership in this cult.

There are many more “faiths” that people belong to such like the Christian Scientists, the Mormons, The Baha’i Faith, Scientology, the Unification Church, etc., which also believe that they are within the true religion or true organization that God has established to bring salvation to mankind. That is why you see these faithful followers sharing their beliefs with whosoever they run into out on the streets. But in no way shape or form has God created these religions or groups or organizations to do such things. As a matter of fact, God has not called these groups at

all. We know that because they believe and share spiritual doctrines that are not found in the truths of Scripture. They will share some verses with people but normally out of context.

We do see in Scripture though how man can be saved. It is not by any group or person, or even a religion as many would have you believe. Salvation is found ONLY and THROUGH Jesus Christ ALONE. Jesus said; “...*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (John 14:6). Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit said; “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” Paul wrote “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*” (1 Timothy 2:5). Also, the Lord himself said that he is the only Savior; “*I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior.*”

If the Scriptures are so clear on this issue, then why do people continue believing that there is salvation in their religion? There is no salvation in any religion, church, group, cult, or person, regardless of what man might say. True salvation is only found in the one who died for our sins alone. And that is Jesus Christ.