



KILLER RELIGION

RELIGIOUS IDEAS THAT BRING SPIRITUAL DEATH

PT. 1, SAVING RELIGION

Saving Religion is the belief that having membership in the right church brings you salvation. The idea that the religion its self will save you.

John 3:3-6—People have practiced "Saving Religion" for centuries. Nicodemus was one person who did this. He thought that his position in the church was enough to guarantee him a high place in God's kingdom. Jesus told him that a religion, or a church, while it might be good cannot save anyone from sin and death. Only that which comes from God can save.

John 3:14-16—It is only through Jesus that anyone, including good church members like Nicodemus, can be saved. This was a new concept to Nicodemus. He knew that Gentiles needed salvation but thought that he was alright because of his religious affiliation.

Ezekiel 33:31—God told the prophet Ezekiel about people who are trying to practice saving religion. Their religion was all outward; it hadn't changed the heart

Romans 2:28, 29—Circumcision was an outward sign and was the evidence of being a Jew. It didn't necessarily make the person right with God. But circumcision of the heart is an inward commitment of the heart to Jesus. Similarly, outward acts like baptism, tithe paying, Sabbath keeping and church membership, don't necessarily mean that you have membership in God's true church. Membership in the right church will NOT save you.

GOD'S ANTIDOTE: NOT MEMBERSHIP BUT RELATIONSHIP

Relationship: 1 John 5:11, 12—Salvation comes only from having a relationship with Jesus. An excellent study for deepening your relationship with God can be found at www.fastmissions.org it's called the "Survival Kit"

Focus: Hebrews 12:1, 2—Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Ask Jesus to forgive past sins and to begin leading you. Don't keep brooding over the sins that are in the past; just let Jesus lead you by keeping your focus on Him.

Learn: Read through the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, with the focus on getting to know the character of Jesus.

Communicate: Trust your cares to God and thank Him throughout the day. A relationship requires communication. We connect with God as we, moment by moment, communicate with Him throughout the day.

"Christ has urged that His people pray without ceasing. This does not mean that we should always be upon our knees, but that prayer is to be as the breath of the soul. Our silent requests, wherever we may be, are to be ascending unto God, and Jesus our Advocate pleads in our behalf, bearing up with the incense of His righteousness our requests to the Father."—E.G. White, *That I May Know Him* p. 78.

Remember: Start keeping track of ways that you see God working in your life. Ask yourself, "How have I seen God working in my life this week?" keep track of these things. At first it may be hard. But soon you will be seeing God actively working in your life.

The first Killer religion that we want to avoid is Saving Religion. Indeed it is not *religion* that saves us but Jesus.

NEXT STEPS:

1. If you haven't done so already, ask Jesus for forgiveness of your sins and to be the leader of your life.
2. Memorize Hebrews 12:2
3. Begin reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the character of Jesus in what you read. You may also want to look into the "Survival Kit" Bible study. Go to www.fastmissions.org click on "online store" and find the "Survival Kit".
4. Begin having an open prayer conversation throughout the day about everything in your life.
5. Keep track of ways in which you see God working in your life.