

## NORTH CHRISTIAN CHURCH PREP SCHOOL LESSON

### Christianity vs. Religion Part 3

As we wrap up our study on the differences between true religion, Christianity, and false religion, we need to remember that religion is one of Satan's most powerful weapons and he uses it to deceive people away from the Truth of salvation in Christ Jesus. Ask yourself this- What does God want to give us: a life of joy and peace based on our confidence in our eternity with Him or a life of rules and instructions for how to look holy to others, filled with insecurity and doubts about our future?

**Jeremiah 29:11** *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

False religion teaches that not working to earn salvation is just "too easy". It gives some of the credit for salvation to people instead of giving all of the credit to Jesus Christ, who did all of the work. Does God give people any credit for their own salvation? Well, what does the Bible have to say?

**Galatians 2:16** *"nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified."*

As you can see, people are given no credit at all. The Bible teaches that God **gives** us eternal life and upon salvation, we are assured that our eternity will be spent with Him. The most wonderful part of this is the blessing of getting to know God, personally. We do this through studying our Bible and through prayer.

**John 17:3** *"And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."*

Now that we know the differences between the two, we must realize that our battle does not end here. We will all face false religion throughout our life. Just because we know the truth does not mean that we will never be lied to or be tempted to believe those lies. As we read our Bibles, pray, and obey His Word every day His Truth becomes like a suit of armor that protects us.

**Ephesians 6:13-17** *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can*

***extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”***

You see, our focus is not to be memorizing Bible verses and following rules, but coming to know Jesus Christ and learning to love Him. Once we are confident in our salvation, grow to love the Lord, and develop the armor of protection through the power of His Word, then we are ready to defend the Gospel against the attacks from false religion.

***1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”***

You may be thinking, “But what will I say?” God promises that if we faithfully study His Word and pray, He will tell us what to say when are called to defend the Truth of His Gospel.

***Matthew 10:19 “...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say,”***

In summary, false religion teaches that salvation and success or failure in life is based on our performance. The true religion God teaches in the Bible is that salvation and goodness is realized through Jesus Christ, and Him alone. When we believe this and trust in Him, we will find freedom for our soul.

***John 8:32 “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”***

*Freedom in Christ...*