

## “Happy Unbelievers?”

As we anticipate celebrating the cornerstone of our Christian faith, the RESURRECTION of Christ later this month, (but we really do EVERY Sunday) have you ever thought about this one??? Christianity claims to be the only true religion, the only one that saves. If that is the case, then why do so many followers of other religions seemingly get satisfaction from what they believe?

First off, we must realize and understand that there really is an unspoken assumption in that question: The fact that people derive comfort out of any religion is because of their false understanding and belief that all religions are the same and one is as good as any other. That's the unspoken assumption. Even though all religions aren't the same, I will grant that every religion can provide some degree of peace, comfort and satisfaction. That's because every religion teaches a morality that may in fact coincide with what the Triune God actually expects of us all. Furthermore, every religion gives people some kind of security that they are somehow moving toward God rather than away from God. But, in reality, that's a false security, because all religions are not created equal. They may or may not all believe in a divine being, they all may teach right from wrong. They may all have some system of punishment for those who are bad and a corresponding blessing for those who are good as their religion defines good. Christianity doesn't work that way. Christianity teaches that we cannot work our way closer to God. That makes Christianity unique among all other religions of the world.

We believe what the Bible, the Word of God teaches ... that by nature we're all lost and condemned. To change that condition, God sent His Son into this world to rescue and redeem us. So that we might be saved, Jesus fulfilled the law, resisted temptation, died the death we had coming. With His resurrection from the dead, all who now believe on Him as Savior are forgiven and promised eternity in heaven.

Believers of other faiths still feel good about their faith because when that false belief system is all you know, it still seems to be a good thing. And faith in something is, as far as feelings are concerned, a better thing than having no faith at all. Still, such a faith is a poor and dangerous thing when it is compared to the absolute joy which belongs to those who know, beyond any doubt, that they have been saved by grace through faith in the resurrected and living Messiah, the Son of God ... Jesus, the Christ.

It's something like a woman who was married to a man who wasn't really such a good husband. She thinks she's happy, she doesn't know any different. But after he passes away and she remarries; this time to a really good guy, she realizes for the first time how poor that first marriage had been. One may like their god... until they really get to know Jesus.

Another question that should perhaps be asked is this: "Why is it that so many Christians who know Jesus don't act happier than they do?" I just said that all other religions pale in comparison to that of knowing the Christ. I think more Christians ought to act like they've been wonderfully, undeservedly blessed. I know somebody who narrowly escaped being in a terrible auto accident. Afterwards, that's all they could talk about. I've met people who were in love. That love was all they could talk about.

I suppose it isn't that way for many Christians because there is a lot of truth in the expression: "familiarity breeds contempt." Another says, "Out of sight, out of mind." I think both of those apply here. If people have put their faith on the back burner, it's easy to forget all that God has done for us in Christ. A person who is newly in love may gush about the person who is the object of that love. But it's a rare person who is still gushing about that love when they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They've grown accustomed to each other. They may have begun to take each other for granted. The same is true in regard to the Lord. Which is why, when it comes to our earthly or heavenly relationships, we regularly need to think about and appreciate the exceptional gift we've been given.

That's what the celebration of Easter brings to mind ... we are freed from the condemnation of our sin through Christ's suffering and death. We are guaranteed that His sacrifice is accepted by God, the Father and we, therefore, have the victory over sin and death. We are free ... now and eternally!

That's a great view!! That's the View from Here! – Have a Blessed Easter!!

