

IS ONE RELIGION AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?

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Some of the most famous religious leaders today will tell you that “one religion is as good as another.” They do not wish to offend anyone, so they endorse every religion this side of Satanism. Though it may seem all religions are the same, they are not. Not all religions are created equal.

God made it clear to ancient Israel that one religion is **not** as good as another. God told them, “You shall have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). Religion is not like a food buffet where you can choose what you want, or a little of everything. The one true God is the only choice available. Joshua told the children of Israel that if they wanted to choose their own religion, there were an abundance of false religions to choose from, but God and His way is the only one true way (Joshua 24:15).

Jeroboam, the first king of the northern kingdom of Israel, placed a golden calf in Dan and Bethel to prevent the people from going to Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:25-30). In addition, he allowed Israelites from tribes other than Levi to serve as priests (v. 31). Was his new “religion” as good as what God had commanded Israel? No, for God told him, “You have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back” (14:9). Those religions that do not conform to God’s will are not “as good.” In fact, they are condemned as false and evil. What might this say about those today who leave the divine New Testament pattern of the church of Jesus Christ to join denominations of men with human names and human organizations? Are the ways of men as good as the ways of God?

Saul of Tarsus was a Jew dedicated to the Law of Moses. He was so dedicated that he lashed out violently against Christians who were following Jesus instead of the Law of Moses. Yet, after he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9), he went into Damascus, was baptized, and began to preach Jesus as the Christ (vv. 10-22). Why did he change religions? Why was he now preaching what he once persecuted?

Saul (who would later be the apostle Paul) learned the truth that the Mosaic covenant had been taken away and replaced by the new covenant of Christ (see Hebrews 10:9). He would later say that those who were still serving the Law of Moses “have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes” (Romans 10:2-4). Paul did not believe that one religion is as good as another. He admitted his error, repented of sin, and followed Christ and Him only.

More examples abound in the Bible about those who left a “religion” to follow the will of God in Christ Jesus. These examples reveal the error of thinking that one religion is as good as another. There is only one God, which eliminates any religion that serves any god except the one God revealed in the Bible. There is only one way of truth, which eliminates any religious practices that are not authorized in the New Testament. There is only one

Savior, which eliminates any religion that seeks salvation through someone other than Christ Jesus. And there is only one church, which eliminates any church that claims to follow Christ, but is not following the pattern of His word (Luke 6:46; 2 Tim. 1:13).

This is not a question of sincerity or tradition, but of truth and obedience. God's gracious offer of salvation is only available in Jesus and only by conforming to His revealed will. This is why we call all men to come to Jesus today, for as He said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).