

In speaking with people about the things of God I am often told, "I am a..." and then a denomination or religion is inserted. I am not *opposed* to such a response. In fact, I would likely respond in the same fashion. What *does* concern me is that many people believe that claiming an affiliation with a particular religious order relieves them of spiritual responsibility.

### **BIRTH...**

has never placed anyone in the Kingdom of God. In fact, when John the Baptist preached repentance and faith in Christ, he warned the Jews not to lean upon their privileges in birth. *"And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."* (Matthew 3:9).

Many people today rest their eternal condition upon the idea that they were born of a particular race. Others base eternity on being born into a "Christian family." My friend, race, status, or heritage will not forgive your sin. Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3). If a person is unsaved, he or she will endure eternal hellfire, regardless of their birth, parentage, or religious heritage.

### **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP...**

*"Repent ye, and believe the gospel."*

has never been sufficient for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus asked the local religious assembly, the Pharisees, *"How shall you escape the damnation of Hell?"* (Matthew 23:33). He also expressed, *"...you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made ye make him twofold more the child of Hell than yourselves."* (Matthew 23:15)

The Lord's local church is important, but just being listed on the rolls as a church member never saved anyone from Hell. However, in some churches it can be heard, "You must be a member of our church in order to be saved from the penalty of sin." Often the reason for this attitude is that certain good works *along with* membership are considered by that church to merit forgiveness of sins in the sight of God. Thus, some people depend on religious ceremonies and rituals for forgiveness. For example, some depend on baptism to wash away their sins. But, *"...if righteousness came by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."* (Galatians 2:21). I simply ask, if we could accomplish a task or complete a ceremony for forgiveness, then why did Jesus have to die?

### **RESPONSIBILITY...**

is always ours to seek God's truth and respond properly to that truth. Avoiding needed discussion on spiritual matters by claiming a denominational affiliation does not remove your responsibility to the truth.

(Mark 1:15)

Such truth must be dealt with and not ignored:

The truth is...you are a sinner.

*"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)

The truth is...you will go to Hell for your sin if you are not forgiven.

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*  
(Romans 6:23)

The truth is...there is nothing you can do, no law you can keep, and nothing you can offer to God for forgiveness of sins.

*"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."* (Titus 3:5)

The truth is...Jesus died for sinners.

*"But God commended his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*  
(Romans 5:8)

The truth is...you must change your mind and turn toward Jesus.

*"Come unto me all ye that labour  
and are heavy laden, and I will give  
you rest." (Matthew 11:28)*

The truth is...you must believe on Jesus.

*"For God so loved the world that he  
gave his only begotten Son, that  
whosoever believeth in him should  
not perish, but have everlasting life."  
(John 3:16)*

*"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth  
the Lord Jesus and believe in thine  
heart that God has raised him from  
the dead, thou shalt be saved."  
(Romans 10:9)*

*"He that heareth my word and  
believes on him that sent me, hath  
everlasting life, and shall not come  
into condemnation, but is passed  
from death unto life."  
(John 5:24)*

The truth is...if you would repent and believe  
on the Lord Jesus Christ, you would have  
eternal life.

*"And I give unto them eternal life  
and they shall never perish, neither  
shall any man pluck them out of my  
hand." (John 10:28)*

*"He that hath the Son hath life, and  
he that hath not the Son of God hath  
not life." (I John 5:12)*

**YOU...**

can be saved from the wrath of God  
to come. *"For whosoever shall call upon the  
name of the Lord shall be saved."*  
(Romans 10:13)

You may be one who has depended  
on birth, church membership, or good works  
for entrance into God's grace. You may  
have avoided needed discussions on the  
things of God just by claiming, "I am a ...."  
But now you know the truth, and that truth  
CAN set you free. Yea, the truth WILL set  
you free if you repent and believe on Jesus,  
asking Him to save you -- to forgive you of  
your sins.

Would you trust Him now?

Would you have Jesus save you?  
– R. Douglas Meadows, 1994

If we can assist you, please call us or  
visit us at:

# I AM A...

