

Christ Is Risen!

April 1, 2018 – Easter Sunday – Mark 16:6

“Don’t be alarmed, he said. You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, Who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.” (Matt. 28:5 – The angel said,)

How many religions are there in the world?

With all the different religious organization in our country and in the world, it can be difficult to weave ones way through all the different denominations and religious organizations.

Today I am going to make it easy for you. There are really only TWO religions in the World. Those two religions are DO, and DONE

For someone who might be church shopping, or someone who might get a bit overwhelmed by all the different schools of thought concerning religion, the bottom line really comes down to the question: How do I get to heaven? And regardless of what religion you may be thinking of, the purpose of the religious organization is to give its listeners and members direction on the answer concerning that question. How do I get to heaven?

The TWO simple ways are: Must I DO something to get there OR IS My salvation DONE?

Must I DO something by giving of my finances or must I DO something to undo or pay for past sins, past wrongs?

This is the common and most popular train of thought for mankind, and because that is the way the natural human nature thinks, many have devised methods to get back into the Good graces of God, to win or earn God’s Favor, either by saying enough prayers or giving enough money to the poor, or by doing enough volunteer projects. However, how many things must I DO, How many are enough to actually undo a past sin?

Religions that teach that a human being must DO something to get to heaven brings no peace, we can never be certain of our salvation. There are even some religious organization that make *Faith* into - a Work - that we do to inherit eternal Life in Heaven. But even our faith is ALL God’s Work for us and In us.

Romans 10:17–*Faith Comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the Word of God.*

The other religion in the world is - DONE!!!

When Jesus died on the cross He clearly said the words – IT IS FINISHED! The payment for sin is complete! There is nothing we can DO to earn our Salvation.

God Created us. God gives us our daily breathe and daily life. God gives us our faith through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. God Won salvation for us on the Cross of Calvary. And God is going to come again to take us and all believers to our heavenly home. Jesus Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Sin, Death, the Devil and Hell have no power over Jesus. Jesus is Victorious!

John 3:16 – For God so loved the World, that He gave His One and only Son, that Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal Life.

Romans 3:23-24 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

1 John 2:1-2 – My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the WHOLE WORLD.

1 Peter 3:18 – Christ Died for sins, Once for All, the Righteous for the Unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, AMEN