

The world's religions all have for primary purpose to control people through how they define who God is, and in the process deceive people. How does scripture warn us about this?

Rom 3:20: "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."

Gal 2:16: "A person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ."

Col 2:20: "Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations."

1Tim 4:1: "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."

2Cor 11:14: "And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light."

Gal 6:15: "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation."

The reason Jesus said:

Mark 13:22: "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect."

John 15:4: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

Are my beliefs based on religion, or do I rather follow Christ at His Word?

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Religions incorporate all kinds of rituals, some pray to intermediaries to intercede on their behalf with God, or even dress with eccentric garments to bring attention to them.

What does the Word of God teach us on this?

1Tim. 2:5: “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus.”

Mark 7:6-8: “Jesus replied “You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ‘These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’ For you ignore God’s law and substitute your own tradition.”

Col 2:8: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Mat 6:5: “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others.”

Therefore:

Mark 7:13: “Thus making the Word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down.”

Col 3:23: “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

Is my faith in Christ, and if so, do I worship Him in truth rather than through human rituals?

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Isn't it interesting to note how the world try to equate God to their own logic, in other words defining God from a human perspective, rather than who He is?

How does scripture define such people?

1Cor 2:14: "The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

Pro 1:7: "The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge, *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Rom 1:18: "The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness."

Rom 1:21: "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened."

Why?

Gal 3:11: "For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

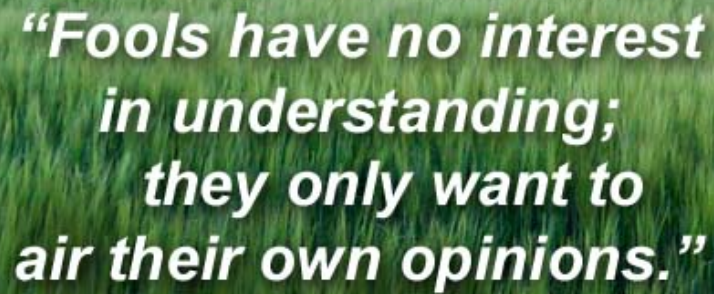
John 1:5: "And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

The solution:

Rom 10:9: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Is my faith in God anchored in Christ, or do rather espouse the world's religious philosophies, thereby rejecting God's wisdom?

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***“Fools have no interest
in understanding;
they only want to
air their own opinions.”***

Proverbs 18:2

Tragically, some profess to be Christians, yet adopt and follow the opinions of deceivers rather than rely on the Word of God.

Why must we always rely on the Word of God so as to not be deceived?

2Tim 3:16-17: “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Heb 4:12: “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

How can we avoid such deceptions?

Rom 12:2: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

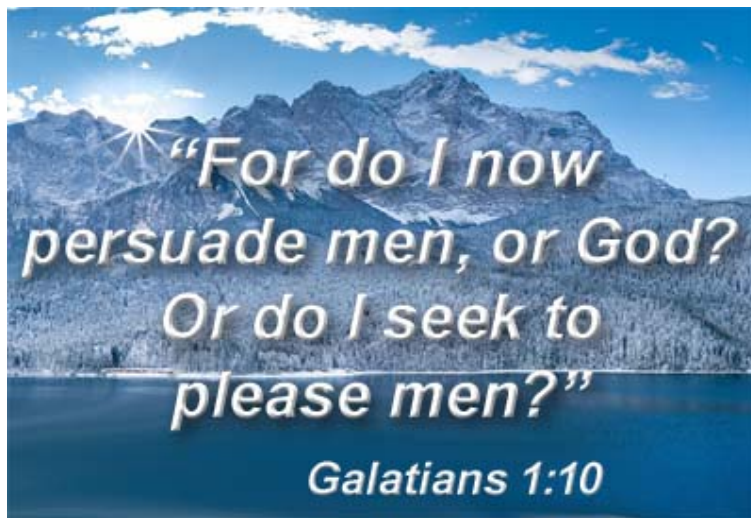
John 8:31-32: “Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Why must we always stand by the Word of God?

2Tim. 1:7: “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

Am I steadfast in the Word of God so as to not be deceived by the opinions of false preachers and teachers?

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In Exodus 20:3, God declares: "You shall have no other gods before Me."

The trend of our society today is in defiantly flaunting the flesh without any regard to God, thereby worshipping the creation and rejecting God.

What warnings does scripture give us on this?

2Cor 6:15-16: "What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God."

1John 2:15: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Mat 6:24: "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other."

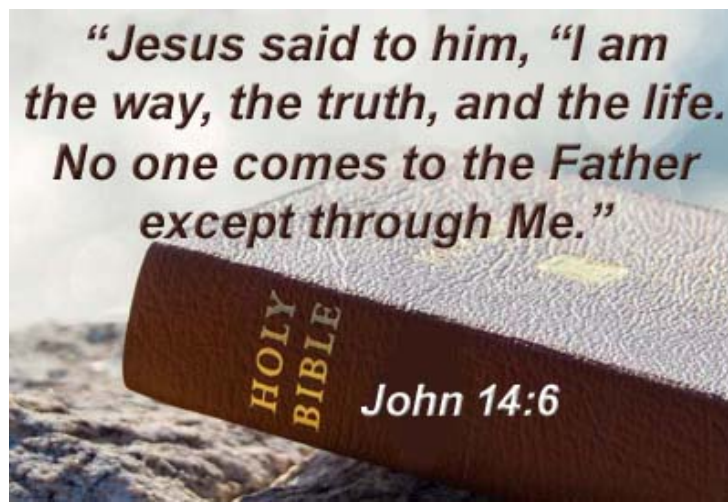
How must we then live to honor God in Christ?

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Col 3:23: "Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people."

Is Christ Lord and the focus of my life, or is my heart rather seduced by the world?

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What is the only door to salvation from eternal death?

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Why?

John 3:17: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

Acts 4:12: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

John 1:17: "For the law was given through Moses, but God's unending love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ."

1Tim 2:5: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

With the result that:

John 3:18: "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Eph 2:8-9: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

John 1:12: "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His Name, He gave the right to become children of God."

Is my faith anchored in Christ, and have I believed and surrendered my life to follow Him as Lord?

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