

# Mankind Needs To Be Saved From Religion!

The history of *man's religion*, tragically, is a history of deception, manipulation, political subversion, thievery, oppression, enslavement, tyranny, persecution, cruelty, and war. **"From the Crusades to Kosovo, religious conflict has provided history with a cavalcade of gore."** \*

Repeatedly in both the East and West, *religion has officially displayed* the most horrible behaviors imaginable—toward other religions and toward the non-religious alike. The Inquisition and its tortures, contemporary terrorism and beheadings, the Holocaust, religious wars and genocides all testify that something is radically wrong with man and more particularly with *man's religion*.

Man's religion takes two forms, a personal form and a political form. In the personal form religion presents a system of beliefs and actions that a person must adhere to in order to win the favor and/or escape the wrath of a god. Religion in this form has proved to be dangerous enough; however, the political form of religion is clearly even more hostile, aggressive, and damaging to societies and nations. The political form of religion has gone beyond a personal theology and has developed **a political theology that demands as religious duty the political subjugation of every nation and government on earth—willingly or unwillingly.** Since the leaders of such religion believe that they are doing "God's will," **the end justifies every means** and nothing can deter them from their course or condemn their spilling of blood. **In their minds, they and their religion are above all law; they are in the place of God on earth doing God's will; therefore, no society, people, or government has the right or authority to resist them or their religion.**

One might believe that religion in this form doesn't exist today, that mankind has rejected such **"dark age" religion**; but this is a most mistaken and dangerous belief. **Religion in this political form** is presently and actively corrupting, disintegrating, and enslaving societies and nations around the world through political and social infiltration, destabilization, subversion, tyranny, terrorism, and war. **Differing in tactics when in the minority or majority, religion in this form has consistently:**

- Coerced, subverted, manipulated, or overthrown governments to achieve its goals.
- Censored and oppressed other religions and edited or suppressed critical information that would expose its own true character, history, and objectives.
- Employed governments and mobs to control and/or punish its religious opponents by use of discrimination, brutality, torture, forced conversion, banishment, murder, and war.
- Threatened, violated, and terrorized other religions and non-conforming individuals and societies.
- Denied men freedom by professing to be the only truth and refusing the right of existence to every teaching outside of and in contradiction to itself.
- Enslaved people to its own will and religious demands. When powerful enough, it has forced its morals, its teachings, and its will over the opposed mind and will of societies and nations.

The personal form of man's religion has also damaged mankind. It has manipulated people to pay money, deceive others, murder civilian populations, kill in "holy war" and "crusades," betray governments, assassinate leaders, engage in armed insurrection, commit suicide, and terrorize men, women, and children of opposing religions or the non-religious. **It accomplishes this manipulation by utilizing some or all of the following spiritual falsehoods:**

- People must do some prescribed religious actions or exploits to earn God's favor. (Here religion prescribes the actions or exploits.)
- Heaven is for "members only"; outside of the religion "is no salvation"; and members of the religion are safe based upon continual obedience to prescribed conditions.
- People must depend upon and be in blind submission to earthly religious intermediaries or potentates in order to go to heaven.
- Religion can promise heaven to doers of certain actions or exploits.
- Religion can promise eternal forgiveness to people who meet prescribed criteria.
- Religionists are better than other people, and religious authorities and actions are above reproach.

Through these and other false teachings, religion has deceived, oppressed, coerced, manipulated, subverted, enslaved, and tortured mankind **in the name of God.** Because of this, individuals, societies, and nations leap to ideological and political extremes to escape religion's grasp. One such extreme is **atheism.** Atheists assume that if **religion** acts with such hypocrisy and godlessness, then God can possess no validity. Tragically, **they confound God with the ruthless, treacherous, and deceptive behaviors and teachings of religion.** Not a few outwardly good and moral people have gone to atheists' graves because of **the godless acts of religion.**

Admittedly, the best argument for atheism is the conduct of religion, but **atheism is not the answer.** Religion is pleased when society's reaction is a shift to atheism. Historically such a shift has eventually created a better climate for religion. **Society must reject both religion and atheism, and find the Truth.** Mankind has found this Truth before, and we must find it again. **We must rediscover personal faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to His plain, simple, clear instructions, and we must once again reject that which has stained the world with blood: man's religion.**



About 2,000 years ago a Jewish **Reformer** (Hebrews 9:10) appeared in Israel preaching, among other things, against the religion of His day (Matthew 23). He is Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He was charged with religious blasphemy and was crucified by the Roman state. His

early followers also met similar accusations and deaths. They were labeled "atheist" because they would not bow to **religious images** or participate in **religious sacrifices.** They were charged with religious crimes against the state and brutally executed. **Religion united with the state crucified Jesus Christ and has persecuted His true followers for nearly 2,000 years.**

Some people mistakenly identify Jesus Christ with **religion.** However, **a comparison of Jesus Christ's conduct with the conduct of religion reveals that the two are not related and are not compatible. Among other differences one will find:**

- Jesus Christ did not burn His religious opponents at the stake, torture them, banish them, or steal their children and property (Luke 9:51-56). **History has found man's religion guilty of all of these atrocities.**
- Jesus Christ did not censor opposing religion (Matthew 13:25-30; 15:14).
- Jesus Christ did not coerce, subvert, manipulate, or overthrow governments to achieve His goals (John 6:15; 18:36, 37; Matthew 25:31).
- Jesus Christ did not employ governments to control or punish his religious opponents (I Peter 2:11-25).
- Jesus Christ gave men the freedom to differ, err, and even pervert or reject truth without fear of mistreatment, torture, banishment, or murder by Him, His followers, or the government (John 12:46-48; Matthew 26).
- Jesus Christ did not force people to believe in and obey Him, and He did not brutalize, conquer, or overthrow the societies or governments of people who did not believe Him (Luke 9:23, 51-56; John 7:17; 12:47).

**Jesus' teaching** also differs greatly from the **teachings of religionists.** Jesus Christ did not seek to oppress or enslave man, but He sought to free man from the power of sin by a **Spiritual change created by personal faith in Him.** He invited men to experience a "new birth"—a new relationship with God—through personal faith in Him. However, He did not deceive, coerce, bribe, force, persecute, or torture people, nor did He make any person violate his or her own free will. It was then and it is now the free choice of individuals as to what they will do with Jesus Christ. **Among other things, in contrast to religion Jesus taught that:**

- God's favor is already toward people and that He came to save them and love them (John 1:1-14; 3:1-18; Acts 4:12; I John 2:1, 2; 4:9, 10).
- Heaven is for anyone who will believe on and receive Him (John 10:26-29; 14:1-6). **Period.** No church affiliation. No religious works. No political philosophy to espouse. No group to follow or society to join. Heaven, eternal forgiveness, and eternal life are God's free gifts to believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1, 15; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 6:23).
- All men are equal in regard to their sin, need, and status (Romans 3:10-12; I Timothy 1:15; 2:4, 5; Matthew 23:8, 9; II Thessalonians 2:3, 4).
- No religionist—no matter what he calls himself—can "absolve" sin, or give people eternal life, or control who goes to heaven or when (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 4:32; Hebrews 7:24-28; 10:11; I Timothy 2:5).
- Religion or religious works cannot save or "help save" a person (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5; Romans 4; 10:1-13; Hebrews 10:11-14).
- Religious leaders and religious people are sinners who need to be saved, just like everyone else (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 10; 11:14; John 3:1-16).

There is a vast difference between the teachings and behavior of **man's religion** and the teachings and behavior of **Jesus Christ.** Religion has deceived, betrayed, and destroyed millions of mankind. It has drenched the world in blood. Jesus Christ has done none of these things. **The hope of mankind is not religious political subversion and control; it is personal FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE.** In fact, **mankind needs to be saved from religion** (Matthew 23:8, 9; II Thessalonians 2:3, 4; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 13:1-8).

**Are you caught up in man's religion?  
Would you like God to help you out of it?**

**REPENT.** Admit (confess to God) that your **religion** is bloodstained and filthy (Revelation 17:5, 6; Isaiah 64:6). Admit that your **religion** cannot save you or anyone else (Romans 3:28; Revelation 18:4, 5).

**BELIEVE.** Accept what God says before and above any and every human authority (Romans 3:1-4; Acts 17:11; 24:14). Accept the historical record of God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ (I John 5). Accept that salvation is by **FAITH in Jesus Christ ALONE,** without the polluted admixture of your **religion** (Romans 3:24-28).

**FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.** Jesus said, "the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives but to save them...Now, is my kingdom not from hence...the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force...let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind...Go ye...and preach the gospel..." (Luke 9:56; John 18:36; Matthew 11:12; 15:14; Mark 16:15).

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