

Only 2 Religions
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

The battle lines are being drawn between those who believe salvation is from God and those who believe salvation is from man.

“Did you know that there are only two religions in the world? Although they take many forms, you can trace all religions back to two roots or foundations.

One religion leads us right back to ourselves. We never escape ourselves. We never get outside ourselves. That religion says that we need not go looking for God. All we need do is to see him in ourselves and in everything. In other words we are god and we can save ourselves without any external help!

The other religion takes us out, away from ourselves to a totally other Being-the glorious Creator, Provider God of heaven and earth. He made us. We belong to him, body and soul. In life and in death, we are not our own! He leads us, direct us, provides for us and ultimately saves us from the incredible mess that we have made of our world.

It sounds so nice to say that we should look into ourselves...to find God there. But, if we are God, who is left to help us?

But, if God is outside of us, if He is someone totally other than we are, then there might be hope! Hope that he would come and rescue us from this mess. By the way... He did just that! Jesus came!”*

So, when Christians affirm that Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life,” they are not attacking other faiths. They are affirming one of the basic truths of Christianity and telling us that their understanding of God is inseparable from Jesus Christ – who has revealed God to us in this awesome, miraculous way.

People of all ages have asked: “What is God like?” Does he understand our problems, pain’s and heartaches? Disciple Philip asked Jesus, “Lord, show us the father and we will be satisfied” (John 14:8). To all such questions Jesus answers: “Anyone who has seen me has seen the father” (John 14:9). In Christ we see the very heart of God laid bare.

What kind of a God are you seeking to know and trust for time and eternity? One who is cold, remote, impersonal? But, if you long for a personal relationship with God, full of grace (unmerited forgiveness) and truth, then the words of Christ: “no one comes to the father but through me,” take on new meaning.

Only through our faith commitment to the life and teachings of Christ do we come to an in- depth understanding of God as a loving father who sent his son to die

for us. In Jesus Christ, millions have found salvation, peace, love, transformation and fulfillment – the very gifts we all long for. Truly, he is the way, the truth and the life.

*These early paragraphs are taken from the World Home Bible league, Burlington ON. Used by permission