

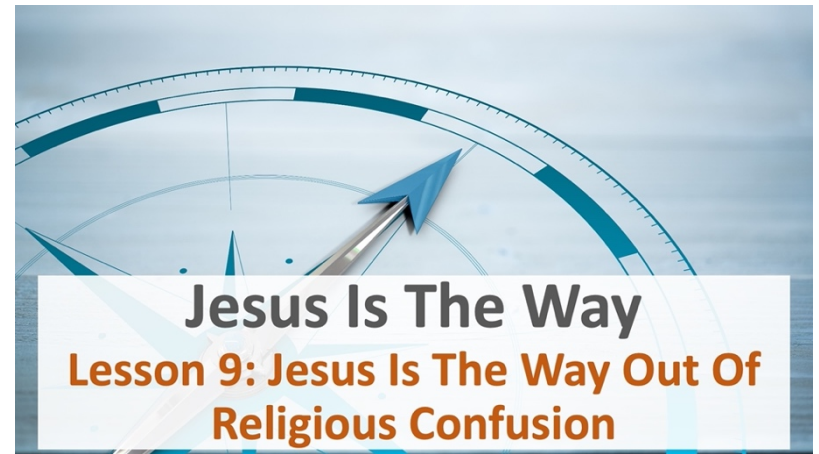
mentioned in Ephesians 4:4 (Ephesians 1:22-23). So, Jesus only has one church that has one set of religious beliefs, teachings, and practices (according to the one faith of the gospel). All other churches have been created by people and are not part of Jesus's church!

Jesus's followers are part of this church. The only church God ever adds anyone to is the one church Jesus Christ established (Acts 2:47). And, only the saved are added to this church. The New Testament makes it clear that to be saved one must: hear God's word (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24), repent of sin (Acts 17:30), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Then, that one must remain faithful (Revelation 2:10). However, most churches in this world do not believe, teach, or practice this plan of salvation. For example, although many churches practice something they call baptism, most do not believe it is necessary for salvation (contrary to the Bible's teachings, i.e. Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Therefore, if a church does not believe, teach, and practice the true plan of salvation Jesus teaches, it cannot be the one church Jesus established!

Jesus gave a pattern for local churches. Once a person obeys the plan of salvation revealed in the New Testament and is added to the one church of the Bible, that person should then join a local church. But, this is not a different denomination with different religious beliefs, teachings, and practices. Instead, this is a locally organized collection of God's people. And, this local church must be governed by the one faith revealed in the Scriptures, following the perfect pattern in everything (2 Timothy 1:13; Colossians 3:17). Failing to do this is serious (Ephesians 5:11)! Therefore, Jesus is the way out of religious confusion because He has only established one church of His people who believe, teach, and practice the one faith and has given a perfect pattern for the local church to follow!

Conclusion

Jesus is the way out of religious confusion! While this world is deeply divided about religion, Jesus provides everything needed for you to be saved. Now, you can simply make Him the one Lord of your life and follow the one faith He has revealed and be part of the one church He established!



Jesus is the way to everything that is important and worthwhile. As we have already seen, Jesus is the way to truth, the way to victory over sin and death, the way to God, the way to Heaven, the way to a better life, and the way to a joyful life. Now, we need to recognize that Jesus is the way out of religious confusion (John 14:6). Since God created people with a spiritual nature, there is an inherent desire to be religious and worship something greater than ourselves. However, people have not agreed what that religious service and worship should look like. Consequently, there are many different kinds of religions throughout the world today and great religious confusion! Yet, people no longer have to be confused or frustrated in their search for true religion because of Jesus Christ!

The purpose of this lesson is to learn about the religious confusion that exists in the world, that Jesus Christ is the only true Lord and Savior, that Jesus only revealed one faith, and that Jesus only established one church.

There Is Great Religious Confusion In The World

Many different religions. There are thousands of religions practiced throughout the world today. A few common ones include: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Atheism, etc. But, this really only scratches the surface of the true nature of religious confusion in the world. For, there are many different sub-groupings within these and many who practice religion privately apart from any kind of organized religion. For example, there are tens of thousands of different ways the "Christian" religion is practiced. Although they may share some characteristics, they do not all believe, teach, and practice the same kind of "Christianity." So, there are Catholic churches, Baptist churches,

Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Written by Eric Krieg

Watch video @ WWW.GODSAIDSO.COM/DGW203

Methodist churches, Lutheran churches, Presbyterian churches, Pentecostal churches, Nazarene churches, Christian churches, etc. Then, many of these are often sub-divided further (i.e. different kinds of Baptist churches). Then, there are many “Christian” groups that claim no denominational affiliation and individuals who have not joined any organized church.

Why so much religious confusion exists. Many conclude that all this confusion exists because there is no single truth for everyone to know and live by. However, we have already established (in lesson 3) that Jesus is the way to perfect truth. So, the religious confusion that exists must be due to something else. For example, there are many people spreading false teaching (2 Peter 2:1-3). There are many people who are not really searching for the truth and want a religion that best suits them (2 Timothy 4:3-4). There are many human traditions that are treated as being the standard in religion (Matthew 15:1-9). Ultimately, all of these fail to seek the one true God in the way He desires to be sought by hearing, believing, and obeying His perfect word of truth that is revealed in the pages of the Bible!

This religious confusion runs contrary to what Jesus teaches. Jesus does not desire people to practice just any kind of religion they might desire to practice – and doing such is not good enough to please God and go to Heaven! For example, John 17:20-23 records Jesus praying for unity among those who would believe in Him. 1 Corinthians 1:10-13 demonstrates that Jesus expects His followers to be perfectly united in their understandings and convictions, agree in what they say, and not be divided in any way. Philippians 1:27 teaches Christians to be united in one spirit and one accord as they seek to believe, practice, and teach only that which Jesus reveals through the faith of the gospel. Ephesians 4:1-6 teaches that God has given us a system of perfect unity (notice the seven “ones) and that we must keep this unity.

Jesus Christ Is The Only True Lord And Savior

There is only one true God. All true religion must begin by acknowledging the existence of the true God of the Bible (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). No acceptable religion can reject the existence of God (Hebrews 11:6). For, God has given evidence of His existence through what He has created and tells us about who He is through His perfect word.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus both claimed and demonstrated that He is the Son of God (i.e. through His miracles, John 20:30-31). So, He was not an ordinary man, just another prophet, merely a good man, or a fictional character. Rather, He is a historical figure people

saw, touched, and heard. And, He was God living on this earth (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1-3, 14)!

Faith in Jesus is essential for salvation. Jesus is the only one who could make the forgiveness of sins possible through His sinless life and sacrifice (John 1:29; Hebrews 4:15). And, Jesus requires faith in and obedience to Him (John 8:24; John 20:31; Hebrews 5:9). No religion that rejects God and Jesus as the Son of God can possibly lead to salvation from sin (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)! Therefore, Jesus is the way out of religious confusion about who should be recognized to be Lord and Savior – as He is the only one who can possibly qualify as such!

Jesus Christ Only Revealed One Faith

The faith of the gospel. There is only one system of religious belief, teaching, and practice that is acceptable to God (one faith, Ephesians 4:5). People are obedient to this one faith whenever they believe what the faith teaches, practice what the faith teaches, and then teach what the faith teaches (Acts 6:7). This faith has been revealed through the message of the New Testament (the gospel of Christ, Philippians 1:27).

The faith has been perfectly revealed once for all time. The one faith is perfect and has been completely revealed (James 1:25; Jude 1:3). So, we must do our bests to faithfully keep the one faith Jesus has revealed. In fact, the New Testament issues several warnings about those who try to change the faith of the gospel (Galatians 1:6-9; Revelation 22:18-19)! Since the faith is perfect, any change no longer practices the true religion that pleases God.

Jesus’s followers are called “Christians.” Those who believe, teach, and practice the one faith revealed in the New Testament are true followers of Christ and called “Christians” (Acts 11:26, not Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Methodists, etc.). Sadly, while many religious organizations claim to be “Christian” and practice the faith of the gospel, most change the faith in some way and do not truly have God as a result (2 John 1:9-11)! Therefore, Jesus is the way out of religious confusion because He has revealed the only faith that perfectly instructs people what they should believe, how they should live, and what they should teach to others (2 Timothy 3:16-17)!

Jesus Christ Only Established One Church

The one church established by Jesus. Jesus promised He would build His church – not His churches (Matthew 16:18). The church He would establish would belong to Him and be called by His name (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:16)! The New Testament then shows that only one church has been built by Jesus (Acts 2:37-47). This is the one body