

Is Our Religion Right?

Text: Mat 11:25-30

Suggested Hymns:

10, 615, 163, 285, 426

- 1) Our Religion Is Right
Because It Is of Divine Origin
- 2) Our Religion Right
Because It Is Adequate For All People
- 3) Our Religion is Right
Because It Gives Us Wonderful
Solace And Comfort

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.

The text for our sermon today is Matthew 11:25-30, ²⁵ *At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ "Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.*

²⁸ *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (NKJV)*

Lord God, heavenly Father, sanctify us through Your truth. Your Word is truth. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ,

There are many questions of great importance that need to be answered. Many people are asking whether our present educational methods are right and whether we can depend on them to train the minds of our children correctly, so that they will become useful citizens of our country. Some people are asking whether our economic system is right.

These and other questions are on the minds of many people today and cry out for an answer.

Today is the First Sunday in Advent so we want to start out right, so the question above all, in importance and significance, is this, *Is my religion right?*

This faith in my heart, that my sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ, shed on Calvary, is this faith dependable? Will it take me to heaven?

Let us answer this important question, for our comfort and assurance, from the text chosen for today. May the Lord bless our meditation.

1. Our Religion Is Right Because It Is of Divine Origin

Where does our religion come from? What is the source of the doctrine that the sins of all mankind are atoned for through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross?

Is this a religious system thought out by the men whose names are attached to the Gospels and the Epistles in the Bible? Is it a kind of religious philosophy that emanated from the deep thought of some famous experts? Is it a remnant of the teaching of scholars in the Middle Ages? The answer to these questions, is of course, a resounding No!

The world has had to discard many of the things that were believed to be true centuries ago. Is our religion, based on the Gospel of Christ, one of these human religious systems of the past that should be discarded in our more enlightened age? We answer No, to that also.

Let us take our answer to this question from our text, *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father*. These are words of Jesus, who gave the world the Christian religion which we have. All our religion is taught by Jesus. Everything that we believe in our religion came to us through Christ.

The doctrine that we are all sinners under the wrath of God, that we must repent of our sins, that all our sins are atoned for by the blood of the Redeemer, and that we should keep God's Commandments and do good works out of gratitude to God, all these doctrines were taught by Jesus Himself and by His Apostles.

All that we believe comes to us from Jesus. And now Jesus says, *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father*. Our religion, therefore, is of divine origin. It is from the mind of God, not the mind of men. It is not a human philosophy, but a divine presentation to humanity. Every single thought and doctrine in our religion, based on the Gospel of Christ, began with God, and not with man. Our religion is of divine origin.

These doctrines could be known only to God. And only God could reveal it. They could not be discovered by the mind of man. The thinking of humanity runs counter to the doctrines of the Gospel. These things in the Gospel are foolishness to the mind of natural man. We read in 1 Corinthians 2:14, *“But 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.*

The Bible’s doctrine of sin and God’s wrath is repugnant to natural man. The Bible’s doctrine of the Atonement does not suit human reason. The Bible’s doctrine that faith alone can save the soul is inadequate to the logical human mind. The Bible’s doctrine that a good life is the evidence of faith and not the purchase price of our salvation is certainly not acceptable to the human mind.

Man would never have developed such doctrines. Only God could reveal them. And this God did through His Son, Jesus Christ, whom He sent to be the Teacher for all people. From heaven God the Father spoke at the Transfiguration of Jesus *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”¹*

That, then, is the source of our religion. It comes from God. And that answers the question whether our religion is right. It is right because what comes from God is truth. Our religion is dependable. It will do for us what we expect. It will not fail us!

How often have we depended on something that came from the mind of men and have found it to be fallible! Some things are spoken and written by men with the intent to deceive and some things out of ignorance. It is dangerous to rely on what comes from the human mind.

Men give wrong orders, make wrong decisions, give wrong advice, and often a tragedy ensues for those who follow. But the religion of Christ is from God. It is truth. It is not fallible. Our religion is right, because it comes from God.

2. Our Religion Is Right Because It Is Adequate For All People

But we may be agitated by the question, *Even if this religion that Christ brought us and that comes from God, is the truth, can I be sure that it is meant for me, the kind of person that I am? I will grant that this religion will save souls; but can I be sure that it will save my soul?*

There are some messages that are not meant for all people. A page in a newspaper which tells of a wonderful new medicine that has been discovered and that will give strength and health to many people. But it is read by a man in a hospital suffering from an incurable disease. He knows that the medicine is not for him. Some messages of hope are not meant for everybody.

But the Christian religion, based on the Gospel of Jesus, is for all people. No one can say it is not for him, no matter what his state or condition may be. No one may doubt that the Gospel is adequate for his own needs.

Let us see what our text says about this matter. In verse 25 we read, ***I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.*** The Saviour had been speaking of the things that He had done as the Redeemer of the world, and of repentance and faith, and of Judgment Day, and of heaven and hell. Then, in verse 25 of the text, Jesus says that these things have been revealed even to people of little understanding, and that while many people who are considered wise and learned in the things of this world have scorned the truth of the religion that Christ taught, yet it is meant for all, even those in the most humble situations of life.

The Gospel is adequate for all people. Our religion, based on the Gospel and is meaningful for everyone. There is no one so poor that our religion cannot make him rich. There is no one so unlearned that the Gospel cannot make him wise unto salvation. There is no one so humble that the Gospel cannot raise him up to new hope. There is no one so deeply covered by sin and guilt that the Gospel cannot give him forgiveness and salvation.

Many people, and I am sure some of us too, have times in our lives when we feel doubts in our hearts about our state of grace and the forgiveness of our sins and our assurance of salvation. Some people are often assailed by doubt.

We can assure them from the Word of God that Christ died for them, and that everyone who believes in Christ will be saved. They understand that too, and often readily agree to it; but very soon they are assailed by doubts again — Can I be saved? Maybe I am too great a sinner! I just cannot become certain that I am saved.

Such people are to be pitied greatly, and one must keep on speaking to them in love, so that they are reminded again and again that Christ died for them and that their faith will save them. Such people are sometimes suffering unspeakable mental torture in their hours of doubt. They need to be strengthened continually by the repeated assurance that the Gospel is for all people.

It is also for the wise and prudent, even if they scorn it. It is for the babes of little understanding and for those of weakest faith, who believe it. How much it will mean for us when we have the unshakeable assurance that our sins are truly forgiven and that we are truly going to heaven!

A man, long imprisoned behind the stone walls of a penitentiary, receives a document that he recognises as a pardon from the governor of the State. He is almost afraid to look at the address on the document, for fear that it is meant for another prisoner and was handed to him by mistake. But how his heart leaps for joy as he sees that the document has his name on it and that it was meant for him!

And so our Christian religion, our assurance of pardon, is meant for all of us. Whoever believes in Christ shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life. Our religion is adequate for all. Can you question that your religion is right if it is the religion that is meant for all the people of the whole world? Certainly not!

3. Our Religion Is Right Because It Gives Us Wonderful Solace And Comfort

And then, as a third reason for believing that our religion is right, I want to tell you of the comfort and solace we have in our religion.

The Saviour speaks of that in our text when He calls the weary and heavy-laden to Himself and promises that He will give them rest. Those who come to Jesus with their heavy burdens will find comfort and new strength in Him.

When sorrow and grief bring bitter tears to our eyes, we find comfort in the assurance of our religion that Jesus loves us; just as a little child that has been deeply hurt by a playmate is comforted when it senses Mother's deep love.

When death enters our home and takes away our loved ones and our hearts are stricken with deepest grief, our religion assures us that there is another life to come, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, and that there is joy in heaven

forevermore, and that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.

When our sins weigh heavy upon us and our guilt seems too great to be forgiven, our religion gives us the comfort that God is truly merciful to penitent sinners and that we may surely believe that all our sins are washed away by the blood of Christ, who is the Propitiation for our sins.

When we feel the weakness of our flesh and almost despair of ever leading a life to please God, when we see again and again that we yielded to temptation and fell into sin, when we see how difficult it is to move our hearts to do good deeds, then our religion gives us new strength for a holy, Christian life.

Our religion holds the crucified Saviour before our eyes and urges and moves us to a holy life and good deeds in gratitude to Jesus.

Since your religion does all that for you, you can be sure that your religion is right. The Christian religion is the only religion that you should hold securely in your heart and cling to all your life.

If you were ill, and a remedy for your illness were recommended to you, and you found that the remedy that you tried did just exactly what you needed, it cured your ailment, alleviated your pain, and gave back your health and brought you new strength for your work in life, would you not say that it was just the right medicine for you? And so we shall believe that our religion is the right religion, because it gives us comfort and solace in our lives.

Therefore we have answered our question as to whether our religion is right. It was an important question, and we have found the correct answer. Our religion is right because it is of divine origin, because it is for all people, and because it gives us wonderful solace and comfort.

Then let us hold fast to our Christian religion and faith, never wavering. Let us be earnest and faithful in hearing the Word of God, to learn of Jesus, so that our hearts will be strengthened to hold fast our religion.

As the new church year begins today, the first Sunday in Advent, let us resolve once more, with the help of God, that we will stand fast in the truth that has been delivered to us, and let us pray today for strength to continue in our religion.

Let us close with the words of the hymnist²

*Let me be Thine for ever,
Thou faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never
Nor wander from Thy Word.
Lord, do not let me waver,
But give me steadfastness,
And for such grace for ever
Thy holy name I'll bless. Amen.*

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

¹ Matthew 17:5

² Hymn 300