

Friday Meditation

Alex McFarland writes in regard to salvation:

*The key is this: We did not define the terms of entering the kingdom of heaven. God did. And if we acknowledge Him and allow Him the inherent rights as God, then we can suppose that His words carry more weight than ours. So when Jesus—God in the flesh—says He is the **only** way, then that's the truth. No piecemeal version of salvation. No cut-and-paste God who grants the rewards of heaven on our terms. Jesus, by His rightful account, is indeed the **only** way.*

Prayer:

- Spend a moment in prayer, rejoicing in God and all Jesus has done for you.
- If there is anything you are anxious or fearful about today, lift that up to God with thanksgiving.

May God be with you today my friend and rest on his unchanging love and grace for you. See you Sunday!

Sermon Notes

What about other Religions?

2008 Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

(July 31-Aug. 10, 2008, among 2,905 adults)

- 52% of Christians believe at least some non-Christian faiths can lead to eternal life:
 - 80% cite at least one non-Christian religion
 - 61% name two or more non-Christian religions
- 30% believe eternal life is by belief
- 30% believe eternal life is by action
- 30% something else is the key, they don't know what leads to eternal life, or don't believe in eternity
- 10% believe it is a combination belief and action

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

For all that Christians believe that make them exclusive, all other religions have beliefs that make them exclusive too.

- No two religions have the same path, the same requirements, the same belief system that will get them into heaven. All religions are exclusive.
- Atheists too have an exclusive belief which says there is no God, no Savior, no heaven, no eternal anything.

Why is Christianity right over against all other religions?

- Not other religious group has a Jesus figure!
 - No God in flesh, miracles, resurrection

What do you do with the tension this exclusivity in Jesus brings when others do not believe in Jesus?

Listen, Share, Show, Tell

Monday Meditation

Read: John 8:31-32

Questions:

1. Who should we abide in?
2. Where do you need to experience more freedom in your life?

Today's prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for sending Jesus to help me to know you. Send forth Your Spirit that I might be a more diligent disciple. Set me free to be all that I can be for You today. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Tuesday Meditation

Read: John 6:40-47

Questions:

1. What is the Father's will for you? (vs 40,47)
2. What is important to know about the Father and the Son? (vs. 45,46)

Prayer: *Lord God, creator of heaven and earth, and of all that is seen and unseen, thank You for sending Jesus to reveal You to me. Help me know the truth and believe this day. In Jesus name. Amen*

Wednesday Meditation

Read: John 3:14-17

Questions:

1. What are the two directions people can go towards (vs. 14,15)
2. God did not send Jesus into the world to do what? What was Jesus sent to do? (vs. 17)

Prayer: *Holy God, help me to order my life that others may see the love of Jesus in me. Help me to not condemn others, but to help them see Your love in me for them. In Jesus name. Amen*

Thursday Meditation

Read: Matthew 10:26-33

Questions:

1. Who opposes Jesus and what should we be more afraid of and why? (v.28)
2. How do verses 32,33 speak to you this morning?

Prayer: *Changeless God, you bless us with the presence of Your Spirit inside us. Spirit help us to never be ashamed, but to joyfully follow the teachings of Jesus and proclaim Your love those we know. In Jesus Name. Amen.*