

# Do You Need to Change Your Religion?

## Jeremiah 6:16

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### INTRODUCTION:

- A. This is the sixth and final presentation in a series of lessons concerning some serious questions about your religion.
1. Five weeks ago we asked, Are you dissatisfied with your religion?
  2. Four weeks ago we asked, Can you recommend your religion in light of the Scriptures?
  3. Three weeks ago we asked, Can you recommend your religion by the way you live?
  4. Two weeks ago we asked, Can you recommend your religion by the way you support it?
  5. Last week we asked, Can you recommend your religion by the way it works for you?
  6. Today we ask, do you need to change your religion?
- B. Please consider this lesson both seriously and carefully because your most precious possession is a stake - your soul. **Jeremiah 6:16** – “Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’”
- C. Have you considered seriously the questions that have been asked over the past five weeks.
1. Are you dissatisfied with your religion?
    - a. If you answered yes, then this lesson is extremely important to you.
    - b. Where there is dissatisfaction, there is a lack of confidence. If we cannot have confidence in our religion, then what can we have confidence in?
  2. Can you recommend your religion in light of the Scriptures?
    - a. If you answered no, then your religion is a religion from man, not from God.
    - b. You need to change your religion to the one you can read about in the Scriptures.
  3. Can you recommend your religion by the way you live?
    - a. If you answered no, then you are a part of a religion that does not have the power to change a life, much less save your soul.
    - b. You need to change to the religion that possesses the power of Christ.
  4. Can you recommend your religion by the way you support it?
    - a. If you answered no, then you are a part of a religion that has not really challenged you to become involved in it.
    - b. Christ will support you if you will support Him.

5. Can you recommend your religion by the way it works for you?
  - a. If you answered no, then something is wrong with your religion. Religion is a two-way street. You do things for the Lord, He will do things for you.
  - b. A religion that will not work for you now will not work for you in Judgment.
- D. If you have so answered these questions as has been expressed, then this lesson has become even more important to you.

## **DO YOU NEED TO CHANGE YOUR RELIGION?**

- A. Men in all ages have sought to change that which they could not find satisfaction with. Our century is no different.
  1. Buy a car - sell or trade it.
  2. Buy a house - move, sell it or rent it out.
  3. Get married - separate or get a divorce.
  4. Take a job - Resign or quit.
  5. Enter a school - transfer. c91?
  6. Buy something not satisfactory - you return it for a refund, or exchange it.
- B. A change in one's religion is by far a more serious decision. The three Q's of life - Decisions Determine Destinies. The reasons for such a change in a person's religion need to be carefully contemplated.
- C. Biblical examples of changing religions.
  1. Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) 3,000 changed from the old Jewish religion to Christianity of the New Testament.
  2. Saul of Tarsus (Paul) Acts 9 & 22) Changed from the old Jewish religion to New Testament Christianity.
  3. Cornelius (Acts 10 & 11) Changed to New Testament Christianity.
  4. Other examples are given in the Book of Acts, the fifth book of the New Testament.
  5. Acts 19: Twelve men “re-baptized” Their 2<sup>nd</sup> baptism was there initial baptism into Christ. Many today need to do the same.
- D. Important factors in these people changing religions.
  1. They each had a religion with strong religious ideas.
  2. They were actively engaged in their religion.
  3. Apparently they were satisfied with their religion at first.
  4. They were each informed that what they called their religion was not the one the Lord required.
  5. Had they remained in their former religion they would have been following

tradition and custom. Perhaps because of family ties. They broke the line of family religion when they realized they were religiously wrong. Today, some do and some don't.

6. They were led to see that they needed to change religions in order to be acceptable to God and to save their souls.
7. They made the necessary change regardless of the cost involving family and friends.
8. In each example, a change was made:
  - a. Not out of convenience, but out of conviction.
  - b. Not on the basis of what or which was the more popular.
  - c. Not to satisfy the desires of family and friends, but the Lord.
  - d. Not because they accepted at face value what they had been told, but because they were convinced.
9. They each made a change because:
  - a. They were deeply interested in serving God and pleasing Him regardless of the cost in breaking with the past.
  - b. They evaluated and became firmly convinced that what they were changing to was now more Biblically sound, and what God was commanding.
  - c. Regardless of what was involved in the change, they were willing to do it.

E. Many people today:

1. Become dissatisfied with their religion.
2. Evaluate it in light of the Scriptures and find it lacking Biblical soundness.
3. Come to realize that in light of the Bible, they are involved in and practicing religious error.
4. They look around for what they truly believe to be right in the sight of God.

F. Upon finding what they consider to be the religion of the New Testament, they react in different ways.

1. Some choose to ignore it and remain as they are. Did the Bible examples we mentioned ignore it when they found it?
2. Some reject it because they have always, or their family has always, been prejudiced against the group that they now see practicing New Testament Christianity.
3. Some refuse to accept it because of the pressures from the religious group that they are trying to leave.
4. Some decide to pass it up and see if they can find the same thing in another religious group.
5. Some refuse to accept it because of family pressures.
6. Some accept their discovery and become obedient to the commands of the Lord, and upon completing his obedience, the Lord adds him to His

Church. **Acts 2:47** – “. . . And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

G. Many people have been dissatisfied with their religion for years. What takes a person so long to change religions?

**OBSERVATION:** I imagine it is hard answer that question unless you have been in the actual situation. Some reasons:

1. Lack of real concern for need to change.
2. Failure to study Bible for encouragement to do what is right.
3. Hoped it would have worked out where he was.
4. Afraid of what others would think.
5. They were very cautious, sincerely looking for a religion that could offer them satisfaction. Had made a poor judgment once, did not want to do it again.
6. It is hard to admit that you were wrong.

**CONCLUSION** Joshua 24:15-24 - Their choice.

A. Do you need to change your religion? Let me suggest to you that we believe with all of the sincerity that we can possess, that we firmly believe we are following in New Testament Christianity. Your own investigation of the the Biblical way, and be a faithful member of the Lord’s Church.

B. The invitation is now extended to give you the opportunity to make the most important decision of your entire life. Make it prayerfully.

C. Hear God’s Word:

1. **Jeremiah 6:16** – “Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'”
2. **Psalms 66:16** – “Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.”

D. Sadly, some accept the religions of men rather than the religion Christ brought to us.

1. **Matthew 7:15** – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.”
2. **Matthew 24:4-5** – “And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you.

For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.”

3. **Titus 1:16** – “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”
4. **Matthew 15:9** – “And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

E. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**