

The Four R's of True Religion

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We have long heard about the three R's in School: **Reading, Writing, & Arithmetic**. We all know that **Writing** and **Arithmetic** do not begin with the letter R.
- B. But the four R's of True religion all begin with the letter **R**.

REVELATION

- A. We cannot know how God expects us to live and worship Him without revelation from Him. **1 Corinthians 2:9** – “But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
- B. We need to believe what is revealed in the Bible rather than what is revealed by man from man.
- C. The chief priests and elders came to Jesus in Jerusalem. Jesus asked them: **Matthew 21:25** – “The baptism of John -- where was it from? From heaven or from men? . . .” Only two sources:
1. From Heaven . . .
 2. From men . . .
 3. We need to know from which. **“Let the Bible be your guide, and success will be your future.”**

RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. To be righteous requires obedience. **Romans 6:16** – “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”
- B. Righteous living is God's Goal for our lives. **Titus 2:11-12** – “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”
- C. There are **RIGHT** ways and **WRONG** ways to live in this old world.
- D. A Sad reality from the Scriptures . . . We can lose our righteousness. **Romans 2:5** – “But in accordance with your hardness and your Impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

REPENTANCE

- A. Repentance of our sins is a part of entering Christ . . . Repentance of daily sins remains a part of remaining in Christ.
- B. **2 Corinthians 7:10** – “For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted . . .”
- C. Repentance must be followed by a “turn” in our behavior.
- D. Repentance is essential . . . Heaven cannot be reached without it.
- E. Many people use mighty thin thread when mending their ways.

REDEMPTION

- A. While our God is a God of love and caring, He is also a God of justice.
- B. Justice for our sins is eternal death . . . But God’s grace has paid that debt and in a way we could never repay. **1 Peter 1:18-19** – “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”
- C. **Jesus paid it all! Redemption is God’s grace satisfying God’s Justice.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Four R's of True Religion
 1. **Revelation**
 2. **Righteousness**
 3. **Repentance**
 4. **Redemption**
- B. **ILLUSTRATION:** Years ago in South Africa, a fine, handsome Dutchman became a Christian during an night service. The next morning he went to the beautiful home of another Dutchman and said to him, “Do you recognize that old watch?” “Why, yes,” answered the other. “Those are my initials; that is my watch. I lost it eight years ago. How did you get it, and how long have you had it?” “I stole it,” was the reply. “What made you bring it back now?” “I was converted last night,” was the answer, “and I have brought it back first thing this morning. If you had been up, I would have brought it last night.” **I would say this man knew something about repentance.**
- C. **Never live a day without true repentance!**
- D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**