

DO IT OUR WAY

Genesis 3:7-21

Introduction: The Bible makes it very clear that there is a BIG gap between God and mankind. Man is born separated from God and is on his way to an eternity in Hell. From the very first family, mankind has attempted to bridge the gap that separates one from God by doing things his/her own way.

I. SALVATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY SOME HOME REMEDY (Do-it-Yourself-ers)

1. People admit they have weaknesses and even fail at times.
2. Many people believe that there is nothing too bad that if given time and the right environment, things will eventually correct themselves.
3. *Luke 18:9-14*. These ideas measure themselves against others and NEVER alongside God's standards and requirements.
4. Do-it-yourself-ers expect that God, at judgment, will accept their home-made standards of righteousness and self-qualifications.
5. No human being who has ever compared his/her own goodness with God's standards has ever had a shred of hope.

II. SALVATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY KNOWLEDGE (Say some)

1. If man's standards are raised, everyone properly educated, the environment improved, giving a much better condition for life, then all will be well say some.
2. Knowledge gained under the power of the Holy Spirit will bring a change to/in mankind. However, it is a futile thing to expect an UNBELIEVER to ever grasp and to do the spiritual things of the Holy Spirit.
3. KNOWING what to do does not enable one to DO what he/she should.
4. Wisdom of the natural person can actually blind him/her to the ONLY way of salvation, for human wisdom says "I don't need anyone to die for me, I can do it myself."

III. SALVATION CAN BE HAD BY THE RIGHT KIND OF WORKS (Many are teaching)

1. What one IS in comparison to someone else will not obtain salvation.
 - What one KNOWS will not gain salvation.
 - Salvation cannot be obtained by what one is able to do.

2. **Jeremiah 13:22-23.** A person cannot change his/her own skin to another and equally true one cannot bring salvation to him/herself.
3. Work, deeds, reforms, disciplines and programs may make the world like people want it but NOBODY can work him/herself into being righteous and without being righteous, no person is acceptable to God.
4. Even DOING SOMETHING FOR GO will not make one righteous. **Genesis 4:4-5** tells of Cain offering his best to God but it was not accepted by God, it was not what God wanted.
5. Service or works do not make one righteous. **Romans 4:4-5; 2 Timothy 1:9**

IV. SALVATION CAN BE HAD BY BEING RELIGIOUS (Countless religions teach)

1. **Romans 8:7.** The natural human being cannot please God, no matter how religious he/she gets.
2. Man was created with a "space" inside that only God can fill. The first couple were filled with God but lost His presence when they sinned in the Garden.
 - God has sent messengers to tell mankind the only way to fill what belongs to God.
 - Satan has blinded everyone to keep them from finding out the only way to fill that "space" which belongs to God. Thus the countless religions and beliefs through the centuries. People trying to find God and fill that void in their lives by trying to be "religious."

CONCLUSION:

1. Only God can provide the means by which a person may cross the great chasm or gap that exists between God and us.
2. God has already provided the only means to cross over, to fill that "space," to fill that empty void in one's heart and life and that is through His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Trying to do the things of God "our way" is empty and useless. There is but one way to be restored to God, to be saved, to obtain salvation, to have eternal life and that is God's way.