

## A TEN CENT RELIGION

### Ephesians 2:8-9

**Introduction:** Which had you rather have as a gift: something that cost ten cents or something that cost a thousand dollars? The more expensive one, of course so we can "brag" about how much our "gift" that somebody gave us cost. Or perhaps the question might be reversed, when buying a gift for somebody "special" would you get a ten cent gift or a thousand dollar gift, if money was no object? Well of course you'd buy the thousand dollar gift, so you could "brag" about how much you spent.

Pertaining to "religion" the principle is the same. Free "religion" isn't as good as that which costs us something. We've got to work, do something in order to have the better, perhaps the best religion. We have to earn it, deserve it. Free religion just isn't going to do it. We've got to do something to earn our religion. Sadly that's what the world thinks and it is contrary to what God has done for mankind.

### I. WHAT MADE ABRAHAM ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

1. From what you know about the Biblical Abraham, would you like to have him a member of your Church? Why?
2. Abraham was a good, moral man, was that why God accepted him?
  - God accepted Abraham because Abraham had faith in God, he believed God.
  - Maybe not everybody liked Abraham, but God did.
3. Abraham didn't earn his way into heaven by being good for degrees of goodness or badness cannot determine one's salvation or usefulness in God's kingdom.
4. God makes us good in HIS EYES and whatever anybody else thins, it doesn't matter, what God thinks does.
  - If you are good enough according to God's standards, you are good enough.

### II. KEEP GOD'S LAWS AND BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD

1. Have you kept all of God's laws? A few, not all of them? So what now?
  - Jesus said you have to keep every law perfectly at all times. Break one and you are guilty of breaking them all.
  - The laws are to show us just how much God loves us and how much we need Him.
2. People have their own ideas of things that one has to do or not do in order to get into heaven.
  - No wonder spreading the Gospel is taking so long. Who wants to come to Church and receive a ten cent "religion" and then go tell the world about it?
3. Christianity is free! Salvation is free! Eternal life is free! Heaven is free! It doesn't even cost a person ten cents! Who wants a religion that they don't have to do anything to have?

### **III. BEING ACTIVE IN RELIGION WILL MAKE ONE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD**

1. Jesus had a conversation with a man who just couldn't understand that all one had to do to have eternal life was to be born again. He didn't understand that by believing in Jesus that could happen.
2. People seem to be afraid, unsure of God's love, for God loves us when:
  - we reject Him - disobey Him - are mean to others - make a mess of our lives - always ready to accept and forgive us and to fill us with His joy and peace.
3. Like Nicodemus, people today study the Bible, pray, attend Bible conferences, teach, preach and know all about Jesus Christ, BUT HAVE NEVER experienced Jesus Christ alive in their lives.
4. People seem to know about salvation, eternal life, heaven, but still think they have to do something to have these things. They just can't accept anything free from God.

### **IV. HAVE THAT CERTAIN FEELING WILL MAKE ONE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD**

1. "If I feel like it..." is a saying people use to do things or not do things, and pertaining to their "religion" they use feelings as a guide. However, faith and feelings are not the same.
  - Faith doesn't come from feelings.
2. Faith in Jesus Christ comes from an ACT of one's will. A decision is made to accept Jesus and then comes salvation.
3. God says we are saved by faith - healed by faith - justified by faith - walk in faith - stand in faith - live by faith - inherit His promises by faith - be right in faith - pray in faith - overcome the world by faith - praise Him by faith.
4. Faith is built on God's Fact. Salvation becomes an accomplished FACT when we accept it by Faith. God isn't looking for our feelings, but for that decision we must make. Disregard feelings. Accept Jesus Christ on Faith and God considers it DONE. No feelings involved.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. If anyone is looking for a religion that requires one to keep laws, do certain things, in order to have eternal rewards, then don't look at Christianity.
2. If anyone is looking for eternal life, fellowship with Almighty God but feels totally unworthy and is always doing something that God probably doesn't like, then check out Christianity, take a look at God's Son, Jesus Christ. He's already done what God requires for someone to have eternal life, and IT'S FREE! It's not even a ten cent religion.