Something to Pray About

By Cindy Sears - February 2011

"URGENCY"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." —John 14:6 (NKJV)

The Church, we Christians, must wake up and reaffirm the truth stated above for:

"The way to heaven is singular: *Jesus is THE Way*. There are many attractive religions, but there is only ONE Way to God. All other 'ways' are the product of man's thinking; they are therefore counterfeit, sidetracks of the devil, and they all lead to hell." (Oliver B. Greene, The Gospel According to John, Vol. II, c1966).

Until we take this to heart, accept this truth as presented in God's Word, until we proclaim it and live by it; we will be ineffectual in bringing people to Christ and changing the world. We have accepted the lie (from Satan, the great deceiver) that permeates our culture—the lie that all good, sincere people will go to heaven even if they have heard the gospel message and refused to believe it. We seem to have forgotten or not been taught the first reason Jesus, God's Son, came to this earth.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the <u>sin</u> of the world!" (See John 1:29). Notice that the word sin is singular, not plural. Christ's death on the cross washed away our sins, plural; but until we believe in Him, we cannot be saved. The <u>sin</u> of the world is <u>unbelief</u>.

"For God so love the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

But read on to verse 18 in the above passage: "Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, <u>but anyone who does not believe is already condemned</u>, <u>because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God"</u> (John 3:18).

Jesus is it. The prayer Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of His arrest was not recorded only to show His anguish about what was to come. It is recorded for us, His disciples, His Church, so that we would know—THERE IS NO OTHER WAY. Going a little further, He fell down and prayed, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 24:39)

And Jesus constantly reiterated that He is the way. He says, "I am the door" (John 10:9), "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11,14), "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Apostle Peter affirms this truth also: "This Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people, and we must be saved by it." (See Acts 4:11-12). The Apostle Paul affirms it: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, Himself human, who gave Himself—a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time." (See 1 Timothy 2:5) Even in the Old Testament we are told to have no other gods besides the One True God. (See Deuteronomy 5:6-7)

Is it dogmatic to declare Christ is the only way to heaven and to being reconciled to God? Yes! Is truth absolute and, therefore, dogmatic? Yes! Is Christ the only way? Yes!

We are God's messengers. People die every day. If they die without Christ, they are condemned. So where is our urgency to tell them of Christ before it is too late? How often do we pray for the lost? Do you pray for family members and friends who are not Christians? Isn't that the least we can and should be doing?

Jesus Christ is not just another way. He is THE WAY. Praise God, He was willing to give Himself for us. Without Him, there would be no way to stand before the all Righteous, all Holy, God, and live.

All Bible quotes are from the Holman Christian Standard Bible version.