

Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Back on June 17, Tony Blair was quoted concerning his views on religious faith and cooperation among religions. This is a topic that is in the news quite regularly and is becoming more accepted and anticipated.

This Ecumenical faith movement is one of two which is going on today. Jesus is heading one faith movement that will bring individuals from every tribe, tongue, people and nation into the Kingdom of God (Revelations 5:9-10; 1Timothy 1:1-5; 1Thessalonians 1:1-2:12).

Various men are also working together leading a second faith movement that will bring people of different religious faiths into a time of peace and acceptance as they live their lives on this earth.

Jesus described two doors that men take: one is the narrow door to the Kingdom of God; the second door is wide and leads to destruction (Luke 13:18-29; Matthew 7:13-27).

My personal opinion or faith is that God's written word, the scriptures, teach that those who walk by faith in Jesus alone are walking the narrow way to eternal life and that the broad way to destruction is traveled by those who walk in sin and or religious pride ("faith?") and are now professing that everyone can do what is right in their own eyes or religion and still find peace with God.

Actually there is going to be only one people in heaven worshipping Jesus, the Messiah and Savior, The King of the Jews, and that is True Jews (Ephesians 3:14-15). This would include those from Old Testament times, before Jesus death, burial and resurrection, who looked forward to the promise of the coming of the prophesied Messiah, both Jews and Gentile converts (1Corinthians 10:1-4).

Secondly it includes those of the New Testament period (today) who look back to Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, in faith, both Jew and Gentile (Romans 2:28-29; 3:19-26).

- 2: 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:
29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Being a True Jew, today, is also synonymous with being a true Christian. However, not every Jew in the Old Testament who had their flesh circumcised was a true Jew and not everyone who has received water baptism and calls themselves a Christian is a true Christian and I am sure something similar applies to other religions as well (Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 6:14-15; Philippians 3:1-21; Colossians 2:8-23; John 8:30-32,43-47).

The Tower of Babel was a great city which worked together in peace but they did not seek the one true God, so God confused their language to scatter them abroad on the earth (Genesis 11:1-9).

There is another City coming which is built by God. It is the New Jerusalem within which only God and true Jews will dwell. It is free, the cost to enter has been paid for, come in through the narrow door while there is still time (John 14:1-7,16-21,23-27; Revelation 21:1-22:21; Jeremiah 9:23-24; Matthew 11:28-30).

—Gary Westgerdes
Celina

ROMANS

- 5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Je-sus Christ:
2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.