

Some thoughts

On Resurrections

& Religions...

IF RELIGION IS -

“If religion is man’s attempt to reconcile with God, then Christianity is no religion, at all.”



As surprising as this sounds, it is true. The Bible paints a more realistic and sober picture that “there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away” (Romans 3:11-12). Instead, Christianity proclaims a God who takes the initiative and comes down in the Person of the Son to reach out to helpless man in his spiritually inert state with the divine grace and forgiveness of the Cross. The Gospel is that power which revives sinful man and kindles a receptivity to God’s love, so that, in turn, man may now return that love to God and to others - as an act of gratitude and transformation, owing to the work of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life. Man never makes the first move toward God according to biblical truth - nor can he (whether that move take the form of feeling, acting, or thinking in any so-called “right” or “pious” direction). Wayward man’s alleged attempt to reconcile with God might indeed suffice to explain what other religions *think* they are doing, but that goal is effectually impossible humanly-speaking, as Christians understand man’s dire predicament. Any reconciliation is God-wrought from start to finish, and man is the blessed beneficiary.

What is Christianity in short, then?

Martin Luther once wrote, “Christianity is the life and salvation God has given in and through Jesus Christ” (from *The Small Catechism*).

Any attempt to define Christianity without the Person and work of Jesus Christ positioned at the very center is woefully inadequate. It is as absurd (yet common, unfortunately) as leaving “Christ” out of Christmas. What one is left with after such an absurd amputation is -mas + -ianity, which, in a play, could be summarized as “mass insanity.”

The hard truth is that Jesus Christ alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and as He, Himself, declared “no one comes to the Father but by me.” (John 14:6). Only by trusting in Christ’s finished work are we saved.

Such an exclusive claim made by Jesus and believed upon by His followers the world over shall for all time stick in the craw of man-made religionists whose view of themselves is decidedly more rosy than what true Christianity allows. Man is dead and needs a resurrection - the very miracle which stands at the epicenter of the Christian faith.

He is risen, indeed. Hallelujah!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Schulte".

Deacon, Director of Youth Ministry