

# Religion or Salvation

1 Peter 3:14-22



The Bible declares that “Christ hath once suffered for sins, the Just (the Righteous One) for the unjust (the unrighteous ones) **that He might bring us to God** (1 Peter 3:18). Herein lies the great difference between **religion** and **salvation**. Religion is **man trying to bring himself to God** (by human effort, by sacraments, by good works, by following various rituals, by trying to measure up to certain moral standards, etc.). Salvation is wholly different. God knew that man, on his own, could never measure up to what God’s righteousness requires, “for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, salvation is Christ **bringing us** (sinful, helpless, hopeless men and women) to God on the basis of what He did for us on the cross.

Salvation can never be earned by performing certain religious deeds: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5). It is not our **DOING** (Rom. 3:20), but it is God’s **DONE** (John 19:30).

There is an illustration that shows the folly of a religious man trying to work his way to heaven. Consider two men seeking to go from New York to London. One man trusts his own efforts and jumps into the ocean and starts swimming all the way to London. No matter how good a swimmer he is, he will perish. The other man gets on a ship and allows the ship to do all the work, trusting the boat to bring him safely to his destination. The boat does all the work. The man of faith trusts Christ to do all the work in order that he might be brought to God.

*“I do not work my soul to save, that my Lord hath done.  
But I would work like any slave for love of God’s dear Son!”*

George Zeller, [www.middletownbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletownbiblechurch.org)

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