

A morsel for the soul #9

There are essentially two religions in the world. One contends that eternal salvation is by the deeds (of one sort or another) of the creature; and the other asserts that it is solely by the grace of God. One of these religions is a religion that is motivated primarily by the fear of eternal punishment and the other is a religion that is motivated by the love of God and a steadfast confidence in His wonderful promises and His unmovable decrees. The religion that is dependent in part or in whole upon what men do "in order to reach heaven" is a selfish religion. It is engaged in for the ultimate reward it offers, not for the unselfish adoration and worship it evinces or manifests. The true worship of God is uniquely characterized by love wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit. And the genuine Israel of God (spiritual Jews) are those who "worship Him in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh" (Philippians 3:3). Anything less than that is not the true worship of God. In spite of the fact that Paul asserted numerous times that our eternal salvation is "not by works of righteousness which we have done," there are still great multitudes who are "going about to establish their own righteousness" (Rom. 10:3). May the Lord save them from that miserable plight so that they may find spiritual rest for their souls in His true kingdom. He has long ago taken care of populating His heavenly kingdom, consisting of all that the Father hath given Him (See John 6:37-39).

---Elder Ralph Harris