

TWO BASIC RELIGIONS

It has been my observation that there are only two basic religions in the world... one being that eternal salvation is by the works of the creature, and the other being that it is alone by the grace and mercy of God. The first emphasizes what sinners supposedly have to do in order to obtain eternal life, and the other emphasizes what the Lord has done for poor, wretched, undeserving sinners and what they owe Him in return. The apostle Paul put the matter out of question (Romans 11:1-6), showing that eternal salvation is by grace and that it cannot be by a mixture of grace and works. When Paul said "Not by works of righteousness which we have done," that is exactly what he meant. He clearly asserted that it is according to God's mercy... "by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). Any other notions about the matter are a great affront to God and are to be rejected with abhorance. There are a number of places in the Scriptures showing us how we may, and should, save ourselves from many harmful things in this life, but eternal salvation is always clearly shown to be entirely by grace.

---Elder Ralph Harris