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Religion v Christianity

Knox, D. Broughton

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RELIGION V CHRISTIANITY

D. B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"
Everybody has a religious side to their nature, this is shown by the fact that religion is a world-wide activity. But religions are as numerous as there are cultures. Every group of people make up their own religion to express the religious side of their nature. Some people are more religious than others and some periods of history are more religious than other periods. Our own age is not a very religious one, but this will change; the pendulum will swing because religion is part of our human make-up.

Religion has no value in itself, it is just an expression of human nature. For example, the highly sophisticated Athenians of the ancient world were very religious, at least that is what Paul told them when he was visiting the city. He found Athens full of religious altars, of priests, of religious ceremonies, and so when he was addressing the Athenian parliament he began by saying how very religious he found the Athenian people but he went on to say that they did not have any knowledge of God at all in spite of all their religion. This is because religion is a human activity and does not bring us into a relationship with the true God.

If we are to have knowledge of God, God must reveal this to us. He must speak with us otherwise all our religion is simply the expression of our own human nature. Most religion is of that sort. The Athenians called their god Zeus, but they didn't know the true God at all. We may call our God, "God" or "Jesus", but the name doesn't make any difference. In a Christian culture we are very likely to use Christian terms, but we may be just as ignorant of God as the old Athenians. However, it is possible for us to know the true God because He will respond to those who seek Him in the area of truth. The truest thing about ourselves is that we are sinners; we don't thank God, we don't honour Him, we don't obey Him, we don't trust Him. We must begin by saying that we are sorry for this, and wish to do his
will; then we remain in the area of truth. God will speak with us and give us a knowledge of himself. But if we try to have a relationship with God or even if we think we do have such a relationship without being sorry for our sins, without repentance asking Him for forgiveness and a heartfelt determination to do His will then we are outside the area of truth and it is quite impossible for us to know God whatever name we give to our religious activities.

The other true thing even more important is that Jesus is the Son of God and He must be the centre of our lives if we are to live within the truth. He died for our sins. So if we repent and are sorry for them, and if we put our faith in Jesus as the Lord, we will find that our religion has turned itself into true knowledge of God, for God will speak to us in the area of truth because he is anxious to have us as His sons and daughters. Jesus will bring us into fellowship and friendship with the true God so that we may know Him not only now but through eternity.
The Christian Faith
is broadcast every Sunday
at 7.10 p.m. over
Radio 2CH

Copies of these weekly broadcasts may be obtained
($5 per year posted) by writing to The Christian
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