

Cafeteria - cont.

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Cafeteria-Style Religion What Are the Results?

The negative results of this type of religion are many. It promotes a broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). It makes sheep without a shepherd (Matthew 9:36). It offers a doctrine-free, truth-free message (1 Timothy 6:3-5). And, it leads to confusion and every vile deed (James 3:16).

What Are We to Do?

We must reject a cafeteria-style religion. We must teach others to stop following self (Prov. 3:5-6; 14:12; 16:25; Jer. 10:23). We must abstain from pluralism (Revelation 2:14-15,20). We must examine carefully everything that is taught (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; 1 John 4:1-6). We must continue to proclaim that there is only one way to heaven – Jesus Christ (John 8:24; 10:9; 12:48; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 4:4-6). We must hear Jesus and no one else (Matthew 17:5).

Friends, “cafeteria-style” religion is convenient and popular, but it is not what God wants. Let’s worship God in spirit and in truth. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Many religious people claim to accept the Christ of the cross, but not the cross of the Christ.
- Read your Bible to be wise, believe your Bible to be safe, practice your Bible to be obedient, and share your Bible to be loving.
- Secret sins don’t stay secret very long.
- Pray without ceasing.

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Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Last week in the Warfield Bulletin, I began a look at the “cafeteria-style” religion that is so prevalent in our society today. I pointed out some examples of this type of religion in Bible times and in contemporary society. The “cafeteria-style” religion is a pick-and-choose style of religion where you take what you want from the Bible and other religions and put it all together to make a religion that suits you.

Cafeteria-Style Religion Among Churches of Christ

Unfortunately, “cafeteria-style” religion is even found among some who claim to be members of churches of Christ. Some so-called Christians like to pick and choose from the Bible and from the denominations. They promote a Church of Christ salvation by grace or faith alone, institutional societies, instrumental music, women preachers, open fellowship, the social gospel, etc. Consider the following material from an online article highlighting a prominent Church of Christ preacher named Randy Harris from Abilene Christian University.

“Focused on reaching the students during Lectureship, the student track offers more student-friendly topics,

such as mysticism, at later times in the evening.”

“Monday night at 8:45 p.m. in the Den Café at Barret Hall, the Spiritual Spectrum topic is Mysticism in a Modern World, hosted by Randy Harris, instructor of Bible, missions and ministry. Harris said the topic was picked because it appeals to students.”

“The director of the lectures wanted to have things that the whole campus would be involved in, especially students, Harris said. “This is aimed at students, not the guests.”

“I’ve done a number of things related to the topic,” Harris said. He’s spent time at Trappist monastery, a Buddhist retreat, a Celtic retreat house and a hermit community for 40 days of silent prayer.”

“We’re in a world where everyone is looking for religious experience,” Harris said. “Monks and hermits are people who seem to know about that - that’s why I’ve gone to check ‘em out.”

“Harris said he plans to talk for about 30 minutes and then have a question and answer time. “The idea is students are curious about those kinds of things,” Harris said.”

“Harris said the appeal would be to students who are interested in the whole area of mysticism or meditation or contemplative prayer.”

“Though he studies mysticism, Harris said his education on the subject includes learning through experience.”

“I’ve done a whole lot of reading about it, but you get to a point where you don’t want to read about it,” Harris said. “I’ve really been on a search and kinda decided I would go any place in the world to try and learn from people who know about meditation or contemplative prayer or who were practicing a mystical tradition.”

“McKade Marshall, senior business major from Abilene, went on a retreat this summer where he experienced times of meditation and prayer. He said meditation allows time for people to reflect and focus.”

“I believe college kids are interested in the spiritual movement,” Marshall said. “It’s just a matter of what kind of spirituality they’re going to meditate on, whether it is good or bad.” <http://media.www.acuoptimist.com/media/storage/paper891/news/2007/09/16/News/Professor.Pursues.Mystic.Life->