**Dealing With Non-Christian Religions**

**Reading – 2 Timothy 3:10-17**

Christians should certainly equal if not surpass the righteousness of the World. ***[Matthew 5:20] “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.***

Our submission to the Will of God should not be any less***. [Matthew 6:33] “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness…***

Our dedication to the Word of God should be as fervent though not as formal or ritualistic. ***[1 Peter 2:2] like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.***

***[Colossians 4:2] Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;***

We do our fasting to be seen by God and not men. **Matthew 6:16-18**

Shouldn’t our almsgiving be more abundant as well? [***1 Timothy 6:17-19] Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. [18] Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, [19] storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.***

***[John 17:20-21] “I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; [21] that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.***

***[1 Corinthians 1:10-13] Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. [11] For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. [12] Now I say this, that each of you says, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” or “I am of Cephas,” or “I am of Christ.” [13] Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?***

The call to follow Christ will be hindered if Christians are less dedicated to their Lord than Muslims are to their Prophet!

How Is My Attitude Toward These People?

Much harm has been done in the name of Christianity. The Bible has listed the proper Christ-like attitudes. ***[2 Timothy 2:24-26] And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, [25] in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, [26] and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.***

***[Galatians 6:1] Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*** Surely anyone outside of the body of Christ deserves the same type of treatment.

***[Matthew 5:16] Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.***

**A Fundamental Difference**

The Christian faith is based on the testimony of the apostles and first generation Christians. ***[John 20:30-31] And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; [31] but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.***

There is no reasonable ulterior motive that one can place on the Christians for their willingness to die for their faith; they received no power, fame, or money for their testimony - this gives weight to their testimony as true.

The Muslims, in contrast, spread their religion with the aid of a sword; they gained great wealth and power in the process - this makes their motives suspect and weakens their testimony. Who are the more credible witnesses?

What is the Christian to DO other than try to share the Gospel with as many as we have opportunity?.

Are the non-Christians we encounter more dedicated to their religion than we are?

Dedication alone to God does not save. ***"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." (Romans 10:1-4)***