

WAY TO SHILOH

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WHAT IS YOUR RELIGION?

There are many "baptized" men and women who really know nothing at all about Jesus Christ. Their religion consists in a few vague notions and empty expressions - they trust they are no worse than others - they keep to their church - they try to do their duty - they do nobody any harm - hope God will be merciful to them - they trust the Almighty will pardon their sins, and take them to heaven when they die. But what do these people know practically about Christ? Nothing: nothing at all! Ask them about saving faith; ask them about being born again of the Holy Spirit. What answer will you get? You have asked them simple Bible questions, but they know no more about them in their own lives than a Buddhist or an Astrologer. I warn you plainly that all notions and theories about God being merciful without Christ are baseless delusions. The God of heaven has appointed Christ as the only Saviour and the way of life, and all who would be saved must be content to be saved by Him, or they will never be saved at all.

J.C. Ryle

I say to you that have never been humbled, good people, who have always been good people, you have always kept the law from your youth up, and gone to church regularly, or to chapel regularly, very people- The Lord have mercy upon you, and let you see that your goodness is filthiness, that your righteousness is unrighteousness, and that the best that is in you is bad, and that the bad that is in you that you have never seen as yet will be your ruin, your eternal destruction, unless God set it before your eyes, and bring you down to loathe yourself, and feel yourself to be abominable in his sight, and abominable also in your own sight, when his law comes with power home to your souls.
C H Spurgeon

Hear the words of Robert Murray M'Cheyne (who went on to become a great revival preacher) and his own inner cry to break from his old nominal Christianity and then enter into real and true heart faith. Oh how he found it in Christ the King, and looks back on his past estate with disgust!

"What a mass of corruption have I been! How great a portion of my life have I spent wholly without God in the world; given up to sense and perishing things around me. Naturally of a feeling and sentimental disposition, how much of my religion has been, and to this day is, tinged with the colours of earth! Restrained from open vice by educational views and the fear of man, how much ungodliness has reigned within me! How often has it broken through all restraints, and come out in the shape of lusts and anger, mad ambitions, and unhallowed words! Though my vice was always refined, yet how subtle and how awfully prevalent it was! How complete a test was the Sabbath-spent in weariness, as much of it as was given to God's service! How I polluted it by my hypocrisies, my self-conceits, my worldly thoughts, and worldly friends! How formally and unheedingly the Bible was read- how little was read- so little that even now I have not read it all! How unboundedly was the wild impulse of the heart obeyed! How much more was the creature loved than the Creator!----O great God, that didst suffer me to live whilst I so dishonoured thee, thou knowest the whole; and it

was thy hand alone that could awaken me from the death in which I was, and was contented to be. Gladly would I have escaped from the Shepherd that sought me as I strayed; but he took me up in his arms and carried me back; and yet he took me not for anything that was in me. I was no more fit for his service than the *convict*, and no more worthy to be called and chosen. Yet, why should I doubt? Not that God is unwilling, not that he is unable- of both I am assured. But, perhaps, my old sins are too fearful, and my unbelief too glaring? Nay; I come to Christ, not *although* I am a sinner, but just *because* I am a sinner, even the chief." He then adds, "And though sentiment and constitutional enthusiasm may have a great effect on me, still I believe that my soul is in sincerity desirous and earnest about having all its concerns at rest with God and Christ- that his kingdom occupies the most part of my thoughts, and even of my long-polluted affections. Not unto me, not unto me, be the shadow of praise or of merit ascribed, but let all glory be given to thy most holy name! As surely as thou didst make the mouth with which I pray, so surely dost thou prompt every prayer of faith which I utter. Thou hast made me all that I am, and given me all that I have."

Next day, he writes: "I well remember when I was an enemy, and especially abhorred this ordinance as binding me down; but if I be bound to Christ in heart, I shall not dread any bands that can draw me close to him." Evening.- "Much peace. Look back, my soul, and view the mind that belonged to thee but twelve months ago- my soul, thy place is in the dust!"