

## ME AND HIM AND THEM

(Deut. 6:24)

### Introduction:

1. Religion ceases to be helpful when it becomes detached from everyday life. James made plain that religion pure and defiled was all about practical day by day living (Jas. 1:27ff).
2. What is our religion? Let us consider this morning the fact that our religion is tied to our relationships and our responsibilities to self, to God, and to others. In other words, a person's religion is fundamentally about me, Him, and them.

### Discussion:

#### I. Me.

- A. The book of Ecclesiastes paints a dismal picture for the first 11 chapters.
  1. Man's life does not find meaning in pleasure (Eccl. 2:1, 10).
  2. Man's life does not find meaning in wealth or possessions (Eccl. 5:10; 2:18, 19).
  3. Man's life does not find meaning in wisdom (Eccl. 3:11; 2:14; 9:18; 1:18).
  4. Man's life finds no meaning if it is only an existence "under the sun".
- B. It is not until the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes that we see the hope of mankind, the meaning of our lives. Man is not limited to an "under the sun" existence and thus his meaning is tied to God (Eccl. 12:13, 14).
- C. The responsibility of man to himself, a natural result of his relationship with himself, is to seek what is best for him. Some call this selfishness, and it can become that, but it is not selfish to seek what is best for you as long as it does not come as a result of harm to others.
- D. What is best for man can only be answered when we understand the big picture of our life.
  1. We have been created by our Father as spiritual beings created in His image (Gen. 1:27).
  2. We have been given physical bodies and placed within a physical universe in order to choose where we will spend our eternity (Gen. 2:15-17; 4:7; Deut. 30:15-20; et al).
  3. God has revealed to us how best to live our lives here and now in order that we might enjoy the eternity that is best for us there and then (2 Pet. 1:3-11).
  4. Jesus summed it up (Matt. 11:28-30). Relationship and responsibility tied together.

#### II. Him.

- A. If "rest for our souls" is tied to our being yoked to God (submissive and under His guidance) and learning from Him (that which is best for our souls), what has He revealed?
  1. He is God and there is no other (Is. 45, 46).
  2. He loves us and wants only the best for us (1 John 4:8, 19; Rom. 5:8; Ezek. 18:32; 1 Tim. 2:4).
  3. He has provided all things to allow for our salvation (John 10:10, 11:25; Luke 9:23; 1 Cor. 2:16; 1 Cor. 11:1; Phil. 3:17).
- B. He has provided all things that we might continue in that salvation unto eternity in heaven with Him (1 John 1:7; John 8:12; Matt. 5:14-16).
- C. Relationship with God = loving, thankful children seeking His will in order that we might be saved (what is best for us).
- D. Responsibility to God = submission to His will and obedience to His commands (1 John 5:3).

#### III. Them.

- A. If we would obey God and serve His will, that will bring us to our relationship and responsibility to other people.
- B. If God's will is that all men be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4), what does that mean for us?
  1. It means loving our spouse as God has commanded (Eph. 5:22ff; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

2. It means raising our children in the training and admonition of the Lord (Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4).
  3. It means loving and obeying our parents, honoring them always (Eph. 6:1, 2).
  4. It means being an example of purity and godliness (1 Tim. 4:12-16; Titus 2:7, 8).
  5. It means having a special love and obligation to God's people (Gal. 6:10; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Thess. 5:11-28; Eph. 4:11-16; et al).
  6. It means living the gospel and sharing it with everyone we have opportunity to come into contact with, by whatever means at our disposal.
- C. It means, being salt (that which is different, flavorful, and preserving) and light (that which attracts attention and illuminates the way).

**Conclusion:**

1. The word "religion" is an interesting one. It comes from the Latin word *religio* = to bind again. This is very illustrative for Christians. Our sin separated us from God, but we are able (by way of the grace of God expressed in the blood shed by Jesus on the cross) to bind ourselves again to God.
2. The "way" that tying again or binding again can take place is our religion. It is the Christian way, the faith once delivered to all, the "light" within which we walk.
3. Our religion is ultimately practical. It defines honestly and truthfully our relationship and responsibility to ones' self, to God, and to all other people. For the people of God, it is simply our life.
4. Invitation.