

APR.7/8; 2007
KINGDOMS IN CONFLICT:
KINGDOM'S IN CONTRAST

TO GET YOU TALKING:

1. Share with the group what traditions you have in your family to celebrate Easter.
2. How did you observe Muslims being portrayed this week in the media?

Note: you may want to have a Bible Concordance handy during study this week.

This week we are looking at the difference between Christians and Muslims in the area of salvation. Islam is a works-oriented religion and requires that its adherents earn their way to heaven by performing the five pillars of the faith:

5 Pillars Of Muslim Faith:

1. **Say the confession of faith.** *A Muslim must confess, "There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is the prophet of God."*
2. **Pray.** *Muslims are supposed to pray five times a day: shortly before sunrise, mid-morning, noon, mid-afternoon, and after sunset.*
3. **Give Alms.** *Muslims are to give about 2.5 percent of their wealth.*
4. **Fast during Ramadan.** *For one lunar month, from sunrise to sunset, Muslims are not to allow anything to pass down their throat. Then from sunset to sunrise, they are permitted to eat as little or as much as they want. This is their way of developing discipline and relating to the poor.*
5. **Make a pilgrimage to Mecca.** *Every Muslim who is financially able is supposed to travel to the birthplace of Islam once in his/her lifetime.*

Muslims have no guarantee of being saved. They believe that all their works will be accounted for and on Judgment Day if your bad works outweigh your good works, you are going to hell. The only way to insure you go to heaven is if a Muslim dies in "jihad" (exerting force for God), which could include writing a book on Islam, sharing his faith, or physically fighting for the cause of Islam.

TO GET YOU THINKING:

1. Divide up the group into groups of 2. Assign each group one of the 5 pillars of the Muslim faith. Use Sunday's outlined verses and any others verses you can find to come up with an argument for or against this pillar of faith. (For example; Does scripture encourage us to give alms?; or Are we required to fast, as Christians?).
2. A Muslim's life is organized by his/her prayer times. What would change in our life if we set aside as many times in our day to recognize the holiness of God and intercede for ourselves and others?

Last week you read Galatians 4:21-31, this week continue with this themed passage by reading aloud Galatians Chapter 5.

"The law was never intended to save men: it was only designed to be a hand-maid (like Hagar) to the covenant of grace... The law is so to speak, Jesus Christ's dog, to go after his sheep, and bring them to the shepherd; the law is the thunderbolt which frightens ungodly men and makes them turn from the error of their ways, and seek after God"
Charles Spurgeon March 2, 1856 Sermon title: The Allegories of Sarah and Hagar

3. Islam is one of many religions that are based on what someone does for their god. How can we as Christians fall into the trap of working for our salvation?
4. What is the fine line between living in grace and being obedient to God's laws? At what point does legalism come through and at what point are we *too free* in sin?

PUTTING YOURSELVES IN THE PICTURE:

1. What areas of your life have you seen grace become more real this past year? What areas of your life could be still classified as being under the law? Discuss with each other.
2. Spend time in prayer and as you wait on the Holy Spirit's leading, pray for each other.

SERMON OUTLINE

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ALLAH

JESUS

Transcendent

Immanent: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us..." John 1:14

Unknowable

Personal: "...I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John. 14:10

Disassociated

Involved: "Because He Himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted." Heb. 2:18

SALVATION-

~~ACCORDING TO ISLAM-~~

Salvation is based on what YOU DO! (In the day of Judgment) they whose balances shall be heavy with good works, shall be happy; but they whose balances shall be light, are those who shall lose their souls, and shall remain in hell forever. Qu

Forgiveness- is conditioned upon good works and Allah's choice of mercy. Muslims believe that by striving to please God and by doing good works, they will hopefully gain entrance to heaven through personal merit...*every soul shall be paid in full what it has earned. Qu*

Fatalism- *God leads astray whomsoever he will and he guides whomsoever he will. Qu*

Insecurity-The Only Guarantee of Salvation comes as a result of you giving your life in Jihad (holy war) either defending Islam or destroying infidels (All non-Muslims).
When you meet the unbeliever in the battlefields strike off their heads...Qu

~~ACCORDING TO CHRISTIANITY-~~

It is based on what HE DID! But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom. 5:8

FORGIVENESS- is based on God's unmerited Grace and unconditional favor. For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith, -and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8
Salvation is called the free gift of God in Jesus Christ our Lord Rom. 6:23 NASB

OPEN INVITATION- For who ever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Rom. 10:13 NASB.

SECURITY-Salvation is guarantee to all who truly believe. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. 1Jn.5:13