

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

Matthew 7:21 ... “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven.”

In our previous devotional we discussed how people adopt alternative belief systems. These can range from totally new sets of beliefs not shared by others, or they can be belief systems that borrow parts of the beliefs of different religions, philosophies and ideas. We also noted that a committed follower of Christ has his or her beliefs anchored in God and God's Word. This is how you keep from straying off course and walking away from God's plan for your life.

Unfortunately, not everyone who claims to be a Christian subscribes to the doctrines of faith portrayed in God's Word. Jesus said it best in today's verse. Many people have developed their own belief systems based on portions of the Bible, plus portions of other religions (perhaps the religion of their tribe), plus their own ideas (because they seem to know more about life than God does). We cannot call them Christians, because a Christian is one who follows Christ, and Christ alone.

So, what do you believe? The Philippines is an extremely diverse place with literally hundreds of micro-cultures in its cities, mountains and islands. There are about 180 recognized separate languages spoken, and perhaps double that of sub-languages (slight variations that make it difficult for people of the same tribe or people group, to communicate with one another). Although the government claims the Philippines is the only “Christian” nation in Asia and is 85% Catholic, the accuracy of these statements must be challenged because calling yourself a Christian when you actually subscribe to a variety of contrary religious beliefs, does not make you one. Remember, a Christian is exclusively a follower of Christ; there is no room in that label for the animist beliefs of your ancestors, the various flavors of religion offered by the numerous cults that practice in this country, nor the Eastern religions that are also represented here.

So, again, what do you believe? Can you honestly say that you have abandoned the pagan ancestral beliefs of your people group? Can you honestly say that the false religion of your mother or your father has no more influence on you? Do you practice Yoga, which has its basis in Hinduism? Just what exactly do you believe? I challenge you to think carefully about that. And, if you find your bag of religious beliefs to be made up of a variety of incompatible ideas and doctrines, to make a complete transition to becoming a follower of Christ, and Christ ALONE.

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