



Midweek Meditation



"I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

In life we are taught that if you want to achieve great things, you must do great things. No one becomes a great ballplayer by putting in little to no effort. The same is true of musicians, entertainers, and those in business. This way of thinking is carried over into the spiritual realm. Salvation, a place in heaven, is the greatest "achievement" of all. Therefore, it stands to reason that the religion which places the highest demands upon us must be the one, true religion. Yet, what does Christianity teach? That salvation is gained by no effort at all on our part but by faith alone. Nonetheless, the above thinking is correct; it's just backwards. Salvation is so great an achievement that man cannot even begin to do something so great as to obtain it. Only God can obtain it for us. This He did when He became one of us to suffer and die on a cross. Every religion except Christianity teaches what man must do to gain a place in heaven. Only the Christian Faith exalts our salvation to its rightful place - higher than any human can reach but given as a gift by our gracious God for the sake of Jesus Christ.

In every man there is hidden by nature a blind, self-righteous Pharisee. Accordingly, all who have not been enlightened by God through the Holy Spirit imagine that the best and most reliable religion must be a religion that makes the most numerous and most grievous demands upon man in order to gain salvation; for, salvation being something inexpressibly great, man would unquestionably have to achieve something exceedingly great to obtain it. Accordingly, when man as he is by nature observes that certain religionists make their salvation a real irksome task, he imagines that these people surely must be traveling the straight road to heaven. (C.F.W. Walther)

Not what my hands have done, O Lord, but what You have done for me; this is my salvation. Amen.