

MULTI FAITH SERVICES

D. B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

Religious services at which the worshippers are members of several different religions are becoming common. Multi-faith services they are called in which, for example, Muslims and Hindus join with Christians in prayer and worship. It is a new development and a lot of people think it is a good one, but in fact it contradicts Christianity. Christianity is unique and exclusive, and condemns all other religions as basically wrong. This is not a popular view but it flows naturally from three great articles of the Christian faith. Firstly, that Jesus of Nazareth was the unique Son of God. In Jesus God our Creator took our nature, being born at Bethlehem. Jesus is both God and man; He is the centre of human history. In Him alone the fulness of truth is found.

The second great fact is that Jesus in His crucifixion bore mankind's sin and its penalty, so that through His death alone there is forgiveness of sins with God. It follows that as Jesus Himself taught 'no man can come to God but through Jesus', or as Peter said, there is no other name by which we may be saved. Jesus is unique because He alone provides forgiveness without which we cannot stand in God's presence. He provides forgiveness because he bore our sin and its penalty, and bore it successfully, as the resurrection proves.

The third great fact that makes Christianity unique is that God has given us His word through the inspired scriptures so that through them we

know how to please God and how to come into relationship with Him as His sons and daughters. There are the three great facts; God took our nature, God took our penalty, God has taken our language and spoken to us in the Bible so that we may enter into His fellowship and friendship. So it follows that Jesus is the only light of the world, for he alone is God-with-us. These are all unique events. Those who are not related to God through Jesus Christ are out of fellowship with God and are still in their sins. It doesn't matter whether they call themselves Christians, or Buddhists, or Muslims or Hindus; unless we have a living relationship with God through faith in Christ we are still in spiritual darkness. But Christ is the light of the world and if we come to that light we will walk in the light as He has promised. But only when he is the centre of our worship and the centre of our life do we have light. It is easy for people who do not have Jesus the sinbearing saviour as the centre of their lives to worship together in multi-faith services, for according to the Bible they are all in the dark together. But it is not possible to do so for a Christian who believes Jesus and all that is taught in the Bible, for there we read that all who have the Son of God have life, but those who do not have the Son do not have life but the wrath of God rests on them. Those under God's wrath cannot worship him for he will not receive the worship of sinners, and that includes all of us until we accept Jesus who came to rescue us from the wrath our sins deserve. When Jesus restores us to God's presence through forgiveness, then we may worship God.

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