

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Spiritual, But...

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The Pew Forum on Religion released their survey this past Monday regarding religion in the United States. At first glance one might see a country where the majority believe in God and pray regularly. 71% of Americans surveyed have a “*absolutely certain*’ belief in God or universal spirit”. 58 % also “*pray at least once a day*” Fellow Texans are even more resolved in their belief and prayers. 77% are absolutely certain in a belief in God or a universal spirit, and 66% pray at least once a day.

The questions imply a change in the state of “religion” in America. Many may take comfort that almost 2/3’s of our population believe in God, but notice the God revealed in the Bible must share the stage with some other “universal spirit” even among questioners of surveys. We are therefore “Spiritual” today, not necessarily believers in the one true God revealed in Scriptures

Two results appear incongruent. While 33% of Americans “*interpret Scripture as the word of God, literally true word for word*”, only 24% “*believe their*

religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life” Does not Jesus say in God’s Word, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” (John 14:6)? Paul, inspired by the one Holy Spirit writes, “*There is one body, one spirit, even as ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all*” (Ephesians 4:4-6). If 33% of Americans believe that Scripture is the word of God —literally true word for word, should not 33% also believe their faith is the one true faith leading to eternal life? Do they have a faith that is not the “one faith” of the Bible? Or, is there something else going on in religion today?

One of the questions reveal one answer to the apparent incongruity. Only 27% “*Believe there is one true way to interpret the teachings of their religion.*” More than 25% of Americans accept the premise that there is more than one way to properly interpret revealed teachings. So, maybe we should not be so sure that there is “one Faith,” and Jesus may have meant something else when He claimed to be the way, truth, the

life and the only way to the Father. People may be spiritual today, but they do not live with the conviction of faith revealed in the Bible.

One premise affecting hearts today is the false idea that love is equated with toleration. For example, we have been told that if we love the homosexuals, we must tolerate their practice and not speak out against their actions. If we love Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, or any other religious group, we must be tolerant of their beliefs. To say that all men outside of Christ are lost today is to many, an unloving comment. But it is the truth from the Bible (Ephesians 2:12). To condemn homosexuality as sin and against nature, while offering “change” in Christ is unloving to some, but it is the truth of Scripture (Romans 1:26, I Corinthians 6:9-11).

Americans may be spiritual today, but lack the conviction that their religion is the one true faith leading to eternal life. Tolerance and acceptance is what love is today. It surely is not manifesting the “exclusive” belief as revealed by Jesus Christ. Follow God and His Word, and be not conformed to the “Spiritual”!