

May 4, 2019

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

A “SMORGASBORD” OF RELIGIONS

If you are like me, you enjoy a good smorgasbord where you have access to a great variety of foods. You may not like all the different foods available, but because there is such a variety you will, find those you do like. It doesn't take long to fill your plate so that you can enjoy satisfying your hunger. Yet, even though the food one has chosen may be palatable to him, that does not necessarily mean it is good for one's health. Certain physical conditions will worsen if one eats the wrong food. For example, those with diabetes will be careful to choose foods which will not make their condition worse.

In the matter of religion there is a virtual smorgasbord from which to choose. Everything from Islam to Hinduism, to hundreds of different denominations, religious cults and even "churches" that claim to worship the devil, just to name a few. If one looks long enough, he will find just the religion that is palatable to him. However, just because one may like the "taste" of the religion he chooses does not guarantee it is good for his spiritual health.

There is such a thing as false religion and false teachers. **2 Peter 2:1** warns, "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, *and* bring on themselves swift destruction." How does one determine if a religion is true or false? Friends, the Bible is the only infallible standard by which to make that determination. If a religion or church is teaching and practicing things not found in the Bible, then it is false. **2 John 9-11** tells us, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). Doctrine is teaching. If a religion or church is not teaching what Jesus taught as revealed in the New Testament, then it is a false religion.

There is only one true church and that is the church that Jesus built (Matthew 16:18) and to which He adds the saved (Acts 2:47). It is the spiritual body of Christ of which He is the only Head and Savior (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:22; 4:4). This is the church we read about in the New Testament (Romans 16:16).

Yes, there is a "smorgasbord" of regions, but only one will satisfy your spiritual hunger. Be very careful to make the right choice for your eternal salvation.