

THE MAIN THRUST OF POPULAR RELIGION

Much is said today with regard to "accepting Christ" as one's personal Saviour. However, the word "accept" is used in the New Testament only one time,---and even then it is not used in connection with salvation but in a speech against the apostle Paul by one of his enemies (Acts 24:3). Yet the exhortation to "accept Christ" is the bed-rock of popular theology, and it is extremely rare in our day to hear a discourse outside of a Primitive Baptist pulpit that this appeal is not made the paramount issue. But an ungodly man has no interest in the Christ of the Bible. There is nothing about Him that is "acceptable" to the natural man (Isa. 53:2,3). Not only that but the carnal mind is enmity against God,---and they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Rom. 8:7,8). If a man in a state of nature could "accept Christ" then he could please God.

The Christ of the Bible is known only by those to whom He is revealed, and it is they alone who are exhorted to come to Him for rest (Matt. 11:25-29). Christ is "meek and lowly in heart" and it is only those of a kindred spirit who find Him precious and who desire to bear His yoke, learn of Him, and enjoy the rest that is found in His bosom.

---Elder Ralph Harris