

20 Years Of Choosing The True Religion

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FOREWORD

It took the author 20 years to choose the religion he currently believes in. The course “Comparative Religion” made the author aware that there are 4 other religions in Indonesia and that made him curious to learn which one is the truth.

However, a few years ago, he was given the understanding that it actually only takes a few minutes to understand the concept of salvation of these religions, namely by looking at the death notice advertisements placed by his family.

That experience is what the author tries to share in this thin book. The author hopes that God's children who read this book can understand the concept of salvation of various religions, especially Christianity.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Author

20 YEARS OF CHOOSING THE TRUE RELIGION

1. INTRODUCTION

The author does not know how the readers became Christians, whether because they were born into a Christian family, invited by friends or neighbors, evangelized by a pastor or evangelist, because they heard hymn, because they read verses in the Bible, because of a miracle, or because of other things. The author himself firmly became a follower of Christ after 20 years of learning the five main religions recognized by the Indonesian Government at that time.

The author has attended Sunday School since childhood and was baptized in his teens. However, in 1980, when he started his first year of college and took Comparative Religion class, the author realized that religion is not only Christianity, but also four other religions, namely Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. The author was curious, which of the five religions is true. Are all five true or only one or two true? It was only in 2000, after studying the five religions for 20 years, that the author firmly became a Christian.

When the author shared this experience, there were several people who were curious and asked how the process was so that the author finally chose Christianity. Some were satisfied with the brief explanation, but there were also those who wanted a more detailed

explanation. In fact, several people asked several questions related to this.

A few years ago the author was reminded that in fact a person does not need to spend years to find out what the concept of these religions is like. However, by simply taking a few minutes to look at advertisements announcing death, we can immediately find out the concept of the teachings of the religion.

In this book, the teachings or principles of the four other religions will be discussed briefly, especially those related to the existence of the soul after death or the existence of the soul in the afterlife. Most of the contents of this book contain discussions related to Christianity with the intention that what is conveyed can be a simple summary of Christianity so that, as its adherents, we can understand better. Therefore, this thin book is specifically intended for God's children to increase their insight so that they know Christianity, especially those related to the concept of salvation better.

2. CHOOSING THE RIGHT RELIGION

The philosophy or concept of choosing is the idea that humans have the ability to decide freely between various choices. It is a logical consequence of the traditional idea of free will, namely the idea that humans can make decisions and take actions independently.

Basically, every moment we make choices. Since waking up, we make choices: whether to wake up or continue sleeping. If we choose

to wake up, we also have to make the next choices about what we will do, and so on. In that case, each choice has its own consequences so that in fact our current state or position is the result of the choices we made previously.

When we make a choice, there are different consequences when choosing the good and choosing the right. For example, if an obese person chooses sweet foods because they taste better, the choice feels good, however, it is not right because it will worsen his obesity.

When telling the author's experience in choosing a religion for 20 years by learning the five religions, there were some people who commented that the author could be richer if he did not spend much time learning and choosing the true religion. Their opinions may be true. However, the author never regrets it. In fact, the author feels very grateful for being given the opportunity by God to seek the true religion because it turns out that seeking the true religion is the most important task assigned by God to us while living in this world. This was also realized by King Solomon who later wrote about it in the book of Ecclesiastes, which was used as one of the biblical bases for the author in the author's book entitled "*Human Life Priorities*".

3. FIVE RELIGIONS, FIVE GODS

It has been explained previously that Comparative Religion made the author aware that there were five religions recognized in Indonesia at that time, and the author was curious so he searched and learned which of the five religions was true.

At first the author thought that perhaps each of the five religions had its own god. However, logically it is impossible because, if there were five gods, the universe would be chaotic. For example, one god wanted the sun to rise from the east as it is now, the second god wanted it from the west, the third god wanted it from the north, the fourth god from the south, and the last god wanted it from all four corners in turn.

If that were to happen, the world and the universe would certainly be chaotic. So, the author thought, even though there were five religions, there was only one god. The way of worship is different, as the saying goes, "*There are many ways to Rome*".

However, when the author studied it more deeply, it turned out that the five religions had many differences and contradictions. The most fundamental contradiction is related to how many times humans live in the world. Islam, Christianity, and Catholicism believe that humans only live once, after which they are judged. However, the other two religions, namely Hinduism and Buddhism, believe that humans live many times because of reincarnation. This means that after death, humans can live again in another form, and so on. Because the two religious groups have very different principles, for example, if a Christian converts to Buddhism or Hinduism, his life becomes many times or becomes once if vice versa.

The difference in the concept of living once in a lifetime and living many times makes the author's mind narrow down to the essential and fundamental: what is religion? Where does it come from, its essence,

its function, its requirements, and how does God relate to and regulate human life through religion?

4. WHAT IS RELIGION?

Religion first appeared in the world during the Paleolithic period, when humans began to worship the power of nature and the spirits of their ancestors. Religion in Sanskrit means 'belief in the existence of supernatural powers above humans'. It is the equivalent of the word religion. Religion itself etymologically comes from Latin, namely religio which is taken from the word religare which refers to a belief, something non-empirical, and life after death.

In general, religion is a belief system that views the existence of a higher or divine power that regulates human life and the universe. Religion is a system of belief and worship based on certain beliefs.

If we compare religion with other sciences, the difference lies in their relationship. Science related to human relations, for example sociology, is the science of human relations with other humans. There is also law, economics, political science, and other sciences. As for the science of human relations with disease is medical science.

So, what is religion? Religion is a science or knowledge about the relationship between humans and their gods. Every science has a purpose. For example, medical science aims to find out how humans can be healthy and, if sick, how to cure them. Likewise, when we study a religion, the purpose is so that we can know our gods and, if we die,

our spirit or soul can enter the realm of eternity: heaven, nirvana, moksa, and others.

5. THREE REQUIREMENTS OF RELIGION

FIRST REQUIREMENT

Religion believes in life after death. All five religions believe in this, namely believing that there is life after death. This means that when humans die, they will not just disappear because humans do not only consist of this physical body, but also a soul. The soul is in a non-physical form, in the form of a spirit, and is eternal. Humans are triune beings because they consist of three parts, namely body, soul, and life. The body is in a physical form, which can be seen and held. The soul is in the form of a spirit, which is non-physical, so it cannot be held or seen. The life is in the blood as explained, among others, in the book of Leviticus 17 verse 11a,

"For the life of a creature is in the blood"

The human body in physical form is not eternal. Humans will die when their life leave their bodies and human bodies that do not have life are no longer called humans, but are called corpses. When a person dies, his body will rot, then turn into dust of the earth because that is where he was formed,

⁴⁷The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. ⁴⁸As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the

earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:47–48).

We often see or hear that there are mentally ill people who are treated in mental hospitals (in Indonesia we call it “Rumah Sakit Jiwa/Soul Hospital”). They are treated there because what is sick is their soul, not their body. If their body was sick, they would be treated in a general hospital. Thus, we can see that humans are triune beings consisting of body, life, and soul.

When a person dies, their soul in the form of a spirit leaves their body. Because the spirit is eternal, the spirit does not disappear, but will move on to another life, namely being in the afterlife.

SECOND REQUIREMENT

Every religion has a figure that is worshipped. What is worshiped can be the God, a god, or another figure. The Bible records several figures of worship, including:

The God

*Then he said, “I am **the God** of your father, **the God** of Abraham, **the God** of Isaac and **the God** of Jacob.” (Exodus 3:6a).*

This verse is the word that God conveyed to Moses when He introduced Himself. If we read starting from the book of Genesis, the figure of God is God, the creator of heaven and earth,

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1).

However, at that time in Egypt there were many worship figures who were considered to be God. In fact, they are not the God who created the heavens and the earth and are not the God worshiped by Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They are just individuals or figures who are considered gods.

To differentiate God from these gods, God named Himself the Lord,

*God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘**The LORD**, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. (Exodus 3:15).*

Furthermore, Moses stated that the LORD, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob was greater than all gods because basically these gods were not God,

Now I know that the LORD is greater than all other gods, (Exodus 18:11a).

Thus, it becomes clear that the LORD is the name of the God of the Israelites who is also the God of Christians. Apart from that, not everything that is considered God is definitely God because it is possible that they are just gods or figures,

Gods and Goddesses

- *He followed **Ashtoreth** the goddess of the Sidonians, and **Molek** the detestable god of the Ammonites. (1 Kings 11:5).*
- *On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for **Chemosh** the detestable god of Moab, and for **Molek** the detestable god of the Ammonites. (1 Kings 11:7).*
- *He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to **Baal**, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. (2 Kings 23:5).*
- ***Bel** bows down, **Nebo** stoops low; their idols are borne by beasts of burden. The images that are carried about are burdensome, a burden for the weary. (Isaiah 46:1).*
- *But as for you who forsake the Lord and forget my holy mountain, who spread a table for **Fortune** and fill bowls of mixed wine for **Destiny**, (Isaiah 65:11).*
- *Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the house of the Lord, and I saw women sitting there, mourning the god **Tammuz**. (Ezekiel 8:14).*
- *Barnabas they called **Zeus**, and Paul they called **Hermes** because he was the chief speaker. (Acts 14:13).*

Other Figures

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THIRD REQUIREMENT

All religions have their own holy books, which explain in detail what their god or figure is like, what they like and what they dislike. The holy book also explains the laws or rules for its followers relating to horizontal relationships between humans and vertical relationships between humans and their god or figure.

The holy book also details the rules of worship for its religion, and most importantly explains how to enter heaven and the reasons why someone cannot enter heaven and must go to hell.

6. SEEING DEATH ADVERTISEMENTS

After 20 years of learning the five main religions in Indonesia by reading, observing, and asking, and sometimes even discussing with boksu, pastors, ustad, and other religious figures, finally in 2000, the author firmly became a Christian.

However, a few years ago the author had an understanding that he actually did not need 20 years to arrive at that decision. We can quickly find out what a religion is like, especially regarding the possibility or certainty of going to heaven, just by

looking or reading in the newspaper in the advertisement column from families whose family members have died. By paying attention to the advertisements for these family members, we can easily see where the soul or spirit of the deceased will go.

1 BUDDHISM

A family notification advertisement if a Buddhist family member dies will place an advertisement with the title "Berduka Cita/Grieving of the Passing". Why grieving? Because, according to the Buddhist teachings practiced by the Chinese, once a person dies, his spirit will enter a place guarded by the King of the Afterlife or the King of Hell named Giam Loo Ong.

2 HINDU RELIGION

The title of the death advertisement for Hindus is the same as for Buddhists: "Grieving of the Passing". According to Hindu teachings, the soul of the deceased will be reincarnated and reborn in another physical form. In Hinduism, the soul is called *atman*, which is part of the highest soul, God. Atman resides in all living things and gives life to the body. In Hindu beliefs, the first god encountered by the spirit of the deceased is Yama, the God of the Afterlife or the God of Death.

3 ISLAMIC RELIGION

If a Muslim family member dies, the death advertisement that is written is “Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi roji’un” which means ‘Indeed we belong to Allah and to Allah we shall return’. Then, underneath it is written “Hopefully” because, in Islam, once someone dies, they will experience the torment of the grave. Why is there the word “hopefully”? Because one day, some of the souls who experience torture will be chosen by God to be moved to heaven.

4 CATHOLIC RELIGION

Next, the title of the advertisement for the death of a Catholic is "Rest in Peace". Why is that? Because the Catholic religion believes that once someone dies, their soul will rest or sleep. Later, at the final judgment, all will be awakened.

When awakened, the souls of humans will be divided into three groups. The group that does not know God or does not accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be immediately put into hell. The group that has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as Catholics, they are divided into two more groups. The group of Catholics who have sincerely repented will immediately go to heaven. As for the group of Catholics whose lives are not right, who are still worldly, or who have not sincerely repented, will go to Purgatory.

The biblical basis is taken from Malachi 3:2c-3, which reads,

*^{2c}For **he** will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. ³**He** will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; **he** will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,*

The author interprets the word "He" in the verses above as Jesus Christ, so that the verse reads as follows,

*2cFor Jesus Christ will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.
3Jesus Christ will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; Jesus Christ will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.*

According to the author, these verses do not talk about **the purification of the souls of those who have died, but purification while we are still alive in the world.** When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, God will purify us. **This purification takes place while we are still alive, not after we die.**

In addition, Purgatory is also based on the verse in Matthew 12:31-32 which reads as follows,

*³¹And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander **can be forgiven**, but **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.** ³²Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.*

These verses explain that if someone speaks against the Son of Man (the Lord Jesus) **while He is still on earth** and has not yet ascended to heaven, his sins will be forgiven.

When the Lord Jesus was about to be crucified, many people blasphemed Him. In fact, someone spat at Him. However, the Lord Jesus said that those who do these things will be forgiven.

- ³⁹*Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads*
⁴⁰*and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”* ⁴¹*In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him.* ⁴²*“He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.* ⁴³*He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”* ⁴⁴*In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.*
- ³⁰***They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. (Matthew 27:39–44, 30).***
- ³⁴*Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**” (Luke 23:34a).*

However, the verses in Matthew 12:31–32 also say that blaspheming or opposing the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

The Holy Spirit was poured out after the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit is given by God to

anyone who believes in Jesus Christ. As soon as we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, at that very moment we are given the Holy Spirit as a sign that we belong to God,

*²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put **his Spirit** in our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing** what is to come. (2 Corinthians 1:21–22).*

Now what is meant by blaspheming or opposing the Holy Spirit is when we apostatize. When we apostatize, at that time we oppose or cast away the Holy Spirit and we make promises to other gods, which is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. If we do, our sins are not forgiven, neither in this world nor in the world to come, as explained, among other things, in Hebrews 6:4–6,

⁴It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age ⁶and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Furthermore, this is confirmed again in the letter Hebrews 10:26–29,

²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

So, the verses in Matthew 12:31–32 have nothing to do with Purgatory.

If we study Purgatory further, there is no explanation of how long they will be in Purgatory before they are finally allowed to enter heaven, whether it is 1 hour, 1 day, 1 year, 10 years, 100 years, 1,000 years, or forever? There is no explanation.

5 CHRISTIAN RELIGION

Christianity does not believe in the existence of Purgatory, among other things because the Gospel of Luke records that when the Lord Jesus was crucified with two criminals on His left and right, one criminal said,

42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

*43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, **today you will be with me in paradise.**” (Luke 23:42–43).*

This verse explains that when a believer dies, he does not sleep first, but is immediately in Paradise.

Let us return to the death advertisements from various religions. If a Christian dies, what is the title of the announcement advertisement? “Has Returned to the Father’s House in Heaven.” Where is the Father’s House? We return to Paradise, the place that the Lord Jesus told the criminal who believed in Him. What is Paradise? According to the author, Paradise is a garden in heaven, in front of or around the Palace of God the Father.

If we look at palaces, especially those in Europe, for example Buckingham Palace in London, in the palace complex there is the Buckingham Palace building and in front of the palace building there is a very large garden.

Likewise with heaven, in the heavenly complex there is a palace building, where God reigns and there is also a large garden in the yard or outside the Palace of God. So, once we die, we are in Paradise. Only after the judgment, we will enter

the Palace of God, to the place that the Lord Jesus has prepared for us as said by the Lord Jesus in the Gospel of John 14:2,

My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

In the final judgment, evil people will go to hell. God's children will also be judged, but not to go to heaven or hell, but to determine which level of heaven they will go to or what kind of place they will live in, namely the place that the Lord Jesus has prepared for us. In addition, the judgment also determines what rewards we will receive.

Paradise and heaven are real things and are recorded in the Bible. The apostle Paul was caught up by God to heaven and to Paradise,

*²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to **the third heaven**. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. ³And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— ⁴was caught up to **paradise** and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell. (2 Corinthians 12:2–4).*

7. THE CONCEPT OF SALVATION IN CHRISTIANITY

In the author's house there is security. For example, one day a group of people meet the security and they want to enter the author's house and stay there, will the security allow them? Of course not. Why? Because those people have nothing to do with the author. Then, there is a child who is known to be very good. He likes to teach other children and likes to help his parents. The child also wants to enter the author's house and stay there. Will the security allow him? Of course not because, even though the child is good, he is not the author's child. However, even in the middle of the night, when the author's children comes, the door will be opened by the security because they are the author's children.

So, the ones who will be allowed to enter the author's house are the author's wife and children. Outside of that, no matter how good the person is, they will not be allowed to enter, especially those who have nothing to do with the author.

Therefore, in the Christian concept of salvation, a person cannot enter heaven because of their goodness. A person can only enter heaven, which is the Heavenly Father's House, if he has the status of a child of the Heavenly Father.

In the past, there were many street children who liked to beg on the streets. Let's say one day the author came there, to the place where they were begging. The author said, "I am Mr.

Yunus. This is my house (while showing a photo of the author's house). That is my car (while pointing to the author's car). Who wants to be my children? If there are any who want to be my children, later you can live in my house. I will take care of you, send you to school, and take you to school by car."

Let's say there are several children who want to. Can those children be taken straight home to the author's house? No, because they have owners. Usually those children are children who are sold by their parents or children who have been kidnapped. All street children have owners, there is a "father" or "mother", who must be given a deposit from all the proceeds of their begging that day. Therefore, the author cannot just take the children. The author must meet the "father" or "mother" of the children **to redeem them**.

Street children cannot redeem themselves because, in addition to having to hand over all their income, the ransom is also very large. Therefore, they can only be free if there is an outside party willing to redeem them.

That is why the Lord Jesus needed to come to earth and die on the cross to atone for our sins and all our mistakes so that we can become children of God.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

Basically there is no one who has never sinned. When we sin, we become slaves to sin and will bear the punishment for that sin, both in this life and in the life after death.

- *Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is **a slave to sin**. (John 8:34).*
- *Don’t you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, **you are slaves of the one you obey**—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (Romans 6:16).*

Furthermore, after the children are redeemed, then the author can take them home. Even though at that time the children were still dirty with shabby clothes, they were able to enter the author's house because they came with the author. And when the author stated to the security that **they were all the author's adopted children, they had the right to stay in the author's house.**

That is why, in the book of Romans 8:15 it says,

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “**Abba, Father.**”*

When we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, at that moment we are made children of God because only His children

can enter the Heavenly Father's House. In fact, our status as children of God is reaffirmed by the statement "**By the Spirit we cry out, "Abba, Father!"**" which explains our right to call God, the Creator of heaven and earth, as Father or Daddy. **Thus, we have two fathers, namely our biological father and the Heavenly Father.**

Our status as children of God is also strengthened by the Holy Spirit being given in our hearts, which is a seal, namely as a **guarantee that we are children of God who will receive all that He has promised**, as further explained in 2 Corinthians 1:21–22,

*²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, **guaranteeing** what is to come.*

Furthermore, since our Heavenly Father is the Heavenly King, we, as children of God, are truly **the Princes and Princesses of the Kingdom of Heaven.**

8. GOOD RELIGION AND TRUE RELIGION

At the beginning, the author explained that there is a difference between choosing the good and choosing the right,

likewise there is a good religion and a true religion. Basically, all religions are true in the sense that all religions explain where their souls will live in the afterlife.

Buddhism states that after death our souls will enter a place guarded by the King of Hell. Hinduism states that after death our souls will meet the God of Death. Islam states that after death our souls will enter a place of torture, but some will go to heaven. Catholicism states that all of our souls will definitely go to heaven. However, some who do not sincerely repent will experience Purgatory for an indefinite period of time. Christianity states that if we die, our souls will go straight to Paradise.

So, according to the author, there is no wrong religion. **All religions are true because they explain where our souls will go when we die.**

Next, there is a **good religion**, namely the religion that we believe is the best among the five religions. If we talk about a good religion, it basically depends more on **knowledge** and **personal preferences**.

There is a Buddhist who explains that he chose Buddhism because **he was given many opportunities**. In this life, he may not live right. However, he is not worried because, if he dies and does not enter a good place, he still has a chance in his next reincarnation. Even if he fails, there are still many opportunities.

A Hindu said, "His religion is the best because it respects all religions and loves all humans and nature." **Hinduism sees God in everything** that is manifested by its adherents by loving every human being, animal, nature, and other creations of God.

There are also Muslims who believe that Islam is the best because, for him, the Christian concept of providing salvation and entering heaven for free is **an unreasonable concept**. He is more comfortable with the Islamic concept that, even though after death he will experience the torment of the grave, some will be chosen by God to go to heaven. He is also convinced that with the good deeds and actions he has done, he will be the one chosen to enter heaven.

There are also those who say that they prefer Catholicism to Christianity because Catholicism is not as strict as Christianity. Christianity is very against the worldly or fleshly way of life so that **it hinders their freedom in life**. In the end, Catholics will go to heaven too, at most they will experience Purgatory first although it is not explained how long it will be.

9. CHOOSING A RELIGION

From the author's experience talking to people about their religion, most of them do not understand what religion is, what the ultimate goal is, or what the person will get by following their

religion. In fact, some of them do not understand who their god or figure is and how to worship in their religion.

As explained previously, as humans, we are given the freedom to choose. However, we will also bear the consequences of each of our choices. Often we spend a lot of time choosing things that are actually not essential. For example, we spend a lot of time choosing the shoes we will buy.

We enter several stores, try on dozens of shoes before we finally buy one. Why do we spend so much time and energy choosing shoes? Because, if we choose the wrong one, the shoes might hurt our feet or be uncomfortable when worn. In addition, the shoes can look less beautiful on our feet. What are the risks if we choose the wrong shoes? Can they be repaired? We can probably exchange the shoes. However, if they have been worn, we can buy new ones at the risk of bearing the loss of the first shoe purchase.

The author also saw many of his friends who carelessly chose educational majors when entering college. Some because they followed their friends, because the majors were popular, because they were easier, because the campus looked magnificent, or because the location was close to their homes. In fact, educational majors have a big influence on our lives. If we choose the Accounting, for example, we will work a lot indoors. However, if we choose the Mining Engineering, we will

work a lot outdoors, and often have to work in remote areas. If someone chooses the wrong major, can it be fixed? It is still possible even though he will experience material and time losses.

The author was once shocked when one of his restaurant managers said that he would soon get married. The author was shocked because he had never heard that he was dating. When asked, he said that in the past few days he had been dating someone and had met her four times. The author was very shocked because he decided to get married in such a short time. Jokingly, the author said that from the author's experience when he was little, a pair of doves needed to be caged for about 20 days before they paired up.

If we choose the wrong partner, the risk is very high, especially for Christians, because Christianity forbids divorce, except for sexual immorality,

*I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery.”
(Matthew 19:9).*

Therefore, if we choose the wrong partner, we will experience suffering until the end of our lives. If someone chooses the wrong partner, can it be fixed? It can still be done if

forced even with the heavy risks that must be borne. He grieves God because he violates His word and he also grieves his partner, children and extended family.

Have we ever chosen our religion? Most of us probably haven't. Have we ever thought about **how big a risk** we will bear if we choose the wrong religion? We may only know after we die and are in the afterlife. **If we choose the wrong religion, there is no chance for us to fix it.**

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, (Hebrews 9:27).

King Solomon was a very wise man. In addition to writing many songs and poems, he also thought about the main task of a person in his life, which is written in the book of Ecclesiastes. He concluded that the main obligation of every person in his life is to seek God and obey His commandments because every person will be judged for every deed he does,

*¹³Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for **this is the duty of all mankind.** ¹⁴For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14).*

Thus, the main task of every person in his life is to seek the path that will lead him to heaven, not to seek wealth, throne, women, or anything else. Therefore, make sure the religion we choose is a religion that will lead us to heaven.

*Jesus answered, “**I am the way and the truth and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me. (Yohanes 14:6).*