



**SERMON OUTLINE AUGUST 7, 2016**

# “The Only Two Religions”

Genesis 15:5-6

**INTRODUCTION:** *“There are only two religions in the world.”* (Martin Luther)

- I. **Religion #1:** The righteousness of man: Good Works
  - A. What the world counts as righteous:
    1. Fighting for a just cause
    2. Showing care for others
  - B. The world’s view leads to false beliefs, like:
    1. *We deserve special treatment from God*
      - a) “Faith Theology” – *the desperate farmer from north of Seattle*
      - b) But what about **Romans 3:23**?
    2. *We get right with God by our deeds*
      - a) But what about **Matthew 5:48**?
      - b) And surely let’s see **Isaiah 64:6**
      - c) This caused St. Paul great anguish for his Jewish brethren (**Romans 9:2-3**)
  - C. The world’s view leads to a false and precarious sense of security
    1. How can we ever be sure we are “good enough”?
    2. How can we be sure our deeds are the “right ones”?
    3. We end up (literally) on the dead end street (**Proverbs 14:12**)
- II. **Religion #2:** The righteousness of God: Faith
  - A. God gives His promise to Abraham (**Genesis 12:2 and 15:5**)
  - B. God creates faith in Abraham’s heart
    1. Abraham believes God (**Genesis 15:5-6**)
    2. On the basis of faith’s object, Abraham is counted righteous (**Genesis 15:6**)
  - C. Righteousness is God’s act, not man’s!
    1. It is given apart from “work-righteousness” (**Romans 4:1-3**)
    2. It is based on God’s gift, received by faith (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)
  - D. Abraham believed that:
    1. God would provide him with a son (**Romans 4:18-22**)
    2. God would send His Son, the Saviour (**John 8:56**)
- III. HOW CAN YOU BE RIGHTEOUSNESS?
  - A. Just like Abraham: by trusting faith (**Genesis 15:6**)
  - B. Faith’s object is God’s promise in Jesus.
  - C. This promise has been kept! (**Romans 4:23-25**)

**CONCLUSION:** *It all depends on Who is holding your hand . . .*