

## Another Way

Some have responded to the Share Jerusalem website by pointing out certain passages from the Bible that support the belief that there is only one way to personal salvation. It was because of one such caring response that I came across words of Jesus that suggest that there is another way, that it is sufficient to believe in working on behalf of humanity to obtain personal salvation. Three quotes from the Book of John stand out:

“Believe me that I am in union with the Father and the Father is in union with me; otherwise, believe on account of the works themselves.” (John, 14, 11)

Works? What works? Was he talking about miracles? No, those were referred to as “signs” throughout the New Testament, signs that the prophecies were being fulfilled. There are, however, other times when Jesus referred to his works:

“But I have a witness greater than that of John, for the very works that my Father assigned me to accomplish, the works themselves that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father dispatched me.” (John, 5, 36)

When Jesus was really pushed as to his divinity, he kept coming back to the same explanation:

“Therefore the Jews encircled him and began to say to him, ‘How long are you to keep our souls in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us outspokenly.’ Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and yet you do not believe. The works that I am doing in the name of my Father, these bear witness about me.’” (John, 10, 24-25)

This, then, was Jesus’ ultimate touchstone for any who asked. His work on behalf of humankind was itself the proof of his divinity. Indeed, it was his divinity.

There are many in the world who maintain a faith in that divinity, in acting on behalf of others with absolutely no promise of reward. Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Pagans, and others, all believe in personal sacrifice as essential to personal salvation. How can any one of them invoke God’s blessing while waging war on another?

There is another way. It is the way of peace, no matter what name is given to God. This is the message of the Prince of Peace, the Word made flesh, divine love made real on Earth. It is only by extending that peace to all religions that each of us, and humanity, will find salvation.