

## WHY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE ARE DOOMED

### FALSE HOPE & EMPTY PROMISES

Jeremiah 14:13-14 & 23:16-22 Isaiah 30:9-11 & 2 Timothy 4:3

### THE PASSAGE Romans 2:17-3:8

A Love/Hate Relationship  
2 Peter 3:16/ 2 Timothy 3:16

Two Important Terms

- (1) The Law = The **613 LAWS OF MOSES**
- (2) Circumcision = A sign of **BELONGING TO GOD**  
Genesis 17:10-14

### THREE THINGS WE COUNT ON THAT CAN'T MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD

- (1) Belief in **GOD** (2:17)  
James 2:19 Hebrews 11:6 Romans 1:5
- (2) Biblical **KNOWLEDGE** (2:17-24)  
John 13:17 Hebrews 10:26-27
- (3) Religious **RITUALS** (2:25-28)  
Amos 5:21-24 Proverbs 15:8

### TWO LESSONS TO TAKE HOME

- (1) Religious people need Jesus  
just as much as **EVERYONE ELSE**
- (2) When my religion **REPLACES** obedience - God **LEAVES**  
When my religion **REFLECTS** obedience - God **BLESSES**  
Isaiah 1:10-19 Romans 1:5 Deuteronomy 28:1-14 & 15-68

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 29, 2017

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## MY STORY

1. This weekend we heard a few examples of things we can put too much trust into only to find out later they're "bogus." Can you think of a few things people put too much trust in when maybe they shouldn't?
2. Larry summed up a lot of his sermon with the point, "When my religion reflects obedience - God blesses." Can you think of any ways God has blessed obedience in your own life?
3. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or anything that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend we heard religious rituals alone can't make us right with God. Whether we call them religious rituals, spiritual disciplines or practices, these sometimes can be viewed in a negative light. While there are some justifiable reasons for this, it's also true that spiritual disciplines can be beneficial for us if done with the right motives. As you go through the following verses, write down some reasons why the disciplines referred to might be done for the wrong reasons and then how they could be done for the right reasons.

**Acts 22:16** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>16</sup> And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

**Mark 12:41-44** *New International Version (NIV)*

*The Widow's Offering*

<sup>41</sup> Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

<sup>43</sup> Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. <sup>44</sup> They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

**Matthew 6:9-13** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>9</sup> "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.'

**Matthew 26:26-28** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

How might these disciplines help you personally if you were to focus on doing them with the right motives?

Can you think of any other spiritual disciplines you incorporate into your week? If so, what are they and how do they help you?

**2.** Larry mentioned God's word is inerrant, which gives us confidence to believe it is true. Knowing this changes how we understand God's word. However, it can be hard to believe it when it goes against how we see ourselves or what we feel we deserve. How does knowing God's word is inerrant affect how we view the following verses?

**Ephesians 2:4-7** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:10** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

**Ephesians 2:21-22** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

After reading the above verses, how would you summarize our part in God's great plan?

**3.** One of the things we were reminded of this weekend was that when it comes to our faith in Jesus, it's more about relationship than rituals. Jesus often modeled for us how to have a loving relationship with others. What can be learned from God's word and how Jesus modeled relationship-building that we could apply to our relationships?

**Colossians 3:13** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

**Matthew 9:36** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

**Ephesians 5:15-20** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Peter 3:8-9** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Suffering for Doing Good*

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.<sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.

Which of the verses above is most challenging for you to apply when it comes to your relationships with others?

**TAKING IT HOME**

Looking back at this week’s teaching and homework, is there a spiritual discipline you’d like to incorporate into your day or do more of during the next few days?



Praise/Prayer Requests:

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The “Amazing Race To Serve” event is coming up on **Saturday, February 4!** It will be part race, part party and all FUN for everyone, from the adrenaline junkie to the couch potato and everyone in-between. If you haven’t already, start making your plans to be part of a team, support a team, or just cheer a team on! Don’t miss the new **family friendly course** option and the **grand prize fundraising challenge!**

You can sign up, make a donation, or get more information online at [amazingracetoserve.com](http://amazingracetoserve.com)

*All money raised will go to our next Weekend of Service, scheduled for April 29-30, 2017.*