

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 1: GETTING THE GOOD NEWS RIGHT

INTRODUCTION – Breaking The Rules Of The System

- **WHAT IS "RELIGION"?**...

Any _____ of rules, regulations, rituals, and routines that people use to get right with God. Similar to *The Matrix*, religion is a pseudo-spiritual system of _____ that keeps us blind to the reality of our own bondage.

- **WHY DID JESUS DIE ON THE CROSS?**...

- a) To _____ our sin
- b) To _____ with our greatest pain.
- c) To _____ the end of religion.

Hebrews 10:1

- **WHAT IS THE "GOSPEL"?**...

The Good News message that God became one of us to:

- a) _____ us from our own self-destructive nature (sin).
- b) _____ us his love.
- c) _____ down religion.

And the result is one world-wide _____ that calls God "Father".

Matthew 5:17; 7:12; Romans 13:10

- **DON'T MISS THIS!**...

Jesus stood opposed to the Jewish religion of his day, not because it was _____ but because it was _____.

Things We Should Know About Galatians

- **WHO IS IT WRITTEN TO?**...

A _____ of churches who had shared experience, philosophy, and direction.

- **WHAT'S ITS MAIN POINT?**...

Jesus was right – religion, and the _____ is causes, must be put aside by anyone who wants to follow Christ.

Cracking Open The Text

Galatians 1:1-9

- Jesus' death _____ us from religion. (v. 4)
- Even _____ can lead people away from God. (v. 8)
- The Galatian Christians are deserting _____ in order to embrace _____ else! (v. 6)

TAKE OUT: Like Jesus, followers of Jesus should _____ anything that leads away from or adds to the _____ of a relationship with God through Christ.

CONCLUSION – Yes, It Really Is That Simple

Luke 23:39-43

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Karl Marx said that religion is "the opium of the people". How might this be true?
3. In your own words, how would you answer the question: *What is the Gospel?*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

4. Read Galatians 1, from different translations if time permits. a) Keeping in mind what Paul's main point is in this letter, how does stressing the Fatherhood of God right at the start (vv. 1, 3, 4) help Paul make his point? b) Notice from v. 6 that the Galatians were turning away from a *him* to an *it*. In what ways do religious people do this today? Brainstorm some examples. c) In v. 13 Paul speaks of how he used to persecute the "church of God" (NASB). The word "church" is the word for "assembly" or "gathering" of God's people, and is used of the Jews in other writings of that day. How is Paul's use of the word here a subversive and radical redefinition of who the people of God are? (Also see 3:7, 29; 6:16.) d) In v. 15 Paul is said to be set aside for apostleship from before his birth. Does this mean that he had no choice in the matter? Are we all fated to be whatever God has decided we should be? Look closely at this verse – is there any hint of Paul's freedom being invited to partner with God's plan for his life?
5. What do you think Jesus is getting at in Luke 16:14-17?

SO WHAT?...

6. Read Jesus' words to religious people in John 5:39-40. How much could these words potentially describe you? How so? How not? Pray for each other in your relationship (or potential relationship) with Jesus.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 26 / November 2, 2003