

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 2: Return Of The Living Dead

INTRODUCTION – A Time Of Turmoil

WHAT IS THE “GOSPEL”?...

The Good News message that God became one of us to show us his _____ and to shut down _____ in order to create one new world-wide _____.

Acts 10:1-11:18; 15:1-31

THREE OPTIONS FOR FIRST-CENTURY CHRISTIAN UNITY:

1. All must observe the Law of _____.
2. Jews continue to observe the Law, but _____ are exempt.
3. As a necessary system of identity, the Law is set aside by _____.

THREE OBJECTIONS TO OPTION #3:

But what would replace the Law as a system of self-identity?
The _____!

But what would replace the Law as a system of salvation?
The _____!

But what would replace the Law as a system of guidance?
The _____!

Cracking Open The Text

Galatians 2:11-21

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2:1-10...

- The case study of Titus...
- Gospel Freedom vs. Religious Bondage...
- One Gospel, One people...
- “Target-Market” evangelism...
- Hinting at a radical redefinition of “Temple”...
- The primary distinguishing mark of Christian life...

James 1:26-27

THE ANTIOCH INCIDENT (A “FLASHBACK”)...

Observation #1: The Gospel _____ different people like no other force.

Observation #2: Religious people can be _____.

Observation #3: Religion leads to _____, which leads others astray.

1 Peter 2:9

Tearing down the wall...

Ephesians 2:14-15

TAKE OUT: The Gospel is worth “_____” for and _____ for.

CONCLUSION – Living & Dying For The Gospel

John 17:20-21

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week’s message, share one thing that most challenged you.
2. Discuss the implications of this quote by Richard B. Hays (New Testament Professor, Duke University): *The truth of the Gospel is not merely a doctrine but a social reality, a truth that must be embodied in the practices of a community.*

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. Read about how Peter first realized that religious dietary laws were done away with through Christ and the resulting rhubarb it caused in **Acts 10:1-11:18**. a) What verse stands out to you the most from this passage? Why? b) What about Cornelius does God find pleasing? c) Why would the words of **10:15** been shocking for a religious Jew to hear coming from God? What are the full implications of these words? (Also see **10:28**.) d) Why would the salvation of Gentiles at this particular point in history and in this particular way (through faith in Christ) need some miraculous demonstration in order to make it believable (see **10:44-48; 11:15-18**)? e) Some groups teach that we need to be baptized in water before we can be saved by God’s Spirit. How does this passage counter that religious belief?
4. Was Paul being a hypocrite in **Acts 16:1-3 & 21:26**? Why are these instances of his practice of circumcision and sacrifice not against his understanding of the Gospel?

SO WHAT?...

5. Read **Galatians 2:10**. How do you “remember the poor” (NASB) in your life?
6. Read Paul’s powerful words in **Galatians 2:20-21**, from different translations if time permits. Take a few minutes to meditate on these verses. a) What truth most stands out to you personally? b) In what ways is the truths of these verses true in your life? c) In what ways are they not true in your life? d) Pray for each other regarding this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, November 2 / 9 , 2003