

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 3: *Bewitched By Religion?*

WHAT IS THE "GOSPEL"?...

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

WHAT IS "RELIGION"?...

Any system of rules, regulations, rituals, and routines that people use to get right with God.

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

The Cross!

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

The Messiah!

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

The Spirit!

The more I study religions the more I am convinced that man never worshipped anything but himself.

~ Sir Richard Francis Burton, Explorer & Author

Religion is a defense against a religious experience.

~ Carl Gustav Jung, Psychoanalyst

We all remember how many religious wars were fought for a religion of love and gentleness; how many bodies were burned alive with the genuinely kind intention of saving souls from the eternal fire of hell.

~ Karl Raimund Popper, Philosopher

The gospel Paul proclaims in Galatians declares God's gracious invasion of the world, not merely a new human "religious" possibility.
~ Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul pushes the scandalous implications of the Gospel to their limits.

~ Luke Timothy Johnson, Catholic Theologian

In Galatians chapter three Paul spells out God's original intention – that Abraham should have a single worldwide family, consisting of a group defined in terms not of parentage or ethnicity but of faith.

~ N. T. Wright, Historian & Theologian

Christian life is one that starts, is maintained, and comes to culmination only through dependence on the activity of God's Spirit.

~ Richard Longnecker, New Testament Scholar

All who are 'in the Messiah' are the true people of God. And that means Gentiles as well as Jews. ... If we are 'in' the crucified Jesus, that means that our previous identities are irrelevant. They are to be forgotten. We must now learn who we are in a whole new way.

~ N.T. Wright, Historian & Theologian

There can be no doubt that the statements Paul makes in the third chapter of Galatians have social and political implications of a revolutionary dimension.

~ H.D. Betz, New Testament Scholar

Christian preaching should stress Christ's victory that sets us free. Christians are constantly tempted to slip into new legalisms, rigid systems of law or morality that define – and thus confine – us. Preachers must regularly bring us back to the reality of our freedom in Christ.

~ Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University

I'll remember that.

~ Bruxy Cavey, Christian Preacher

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances.

~ Ezekiel 36:26-27 (NRSV)