

the irreligious CHRIST

Part 4: *It's Time To Grow Up!*

Religion: Humanity's greatest folly, greatest curse.
~ Kevin Harris

The world holds two classes of men—intelligent men without religion, and religious men without intelligence.
~ Abu-al-Ala-al-Ma'arri, Arab Poet

I believe that the greatest trick of the devil is not to get us into some sort of evil but rather have us wasting time. This is why the devil tries so hard to get Christians to be religious.
~ Donald Miller, Author

I have grown increasingly convinced that the struggles of the church in our time are a result of its losing touch with its own gospel story.
~ Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University

Torah, Paul says in Galatians, was not eternal but only a temporary agreement.
~ Luke Timothy Johnson, Catholic Theologian

Paul teaches that Christians must view the world, the Scriptures, and their own lives through the eyes of Christ rather than through the lens of the Law.
~ Ben Witherington III, Historian & Theologian

The Law of Moses was an interim arrangement designed to keep the people of God in protective custody until the promised 'Seed' of Abraham should come.
~ Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University

There is a sense in which Christ came not to renew Jewish or Gentile religion, but to get beyond both and for a 'more perfect union' between all peoples, classes, and both genders.
~ Ben Witherington III, Historian & Theologian

God has chosen to save us by grace, not by race.
~ N.T. Wright, Historian & Theologian

Paul's most basic problem with the Law is that it is obsolete and therefore following it is no longer appropriate.
~ Ben Witherington III, Historian & Theologian

Morpheus: The Matrix is everywhere. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.
Neo: What truth?
Morpheus: That you are a slave, Neo.

All humanity, apart from Christ, is bound together in a solidarity of servitude. Even the most religiously devout – indeed, perhaps especially they – are entangled in subtle forms of bondage.
~ Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
~ Colossians 2:8 (NASB)

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. [9] For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, [10] and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.
~ Colossians 2:8-10 (NASB)

We do not move from him to some deeper reality called love or goodness that will finally do the trick and make the world go round. No human virtues, however exalted or assiduously practiced, will ever make that cut.
~ Robert Farrar Capon, Episcopal Priest

Love, as we so regularly mismanage it, is the largest single factor in making our personal worlds go down the drain.
~ *Robert Farrar Capon, Episcopal Priest*

And goodness, as we so self-interestedly define it, is the mainspring of all the really great evils of the world. The extermination of six million Jews, for example, was done precisely in the name of a perverse vision of goodness.
~ *Robert Farrar Capon, Episcopal Priest*

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.
~ *Jesus, John 5:39-40 (TNIV)*

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.
~ *Philip. 1:21 (NRSV)*

You only have I known of all the families
of the earth.
~ *Amos 3:2 (NRSV)*

Relationship with God does not have its basis in human seeking (mysticism), or doing (legalism) or knowing (Gnosticism), but it originates with God and is carried on always by divine grace.
~ *Richard Longnecker, New Testament Scholar*

This is perhaps the most stunning sentence in this entire confrontational letter. Paul is suggesting that Judaism's holy observances are, in effect, not different from paganism's worship of earthly elements.
~ *Richard B. Hays, New Testament Professor, Duke University*

Teaching by modeling is fundamental to the Jesus movement.

To the Christian faith the Old Testament is no longer revelation as it has been, and still is, for the Jews. The events which meant something for Israel, which were God's Word, mean nothing more to us. To the Christian faith the Old Testament is not in the true sense "Gods' Word."
~ *Rudolf Bultmann, Historian*

Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. [18] "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.
~ *Matthew 5:17-18 (NASB)*