

DISCOVER THE JOY

Joy in Losing Your Religion

Philippians 3:1-11

I. CHOOSE JOY IN THE LORD, NOT IN RELIGION

- A. There is joy in the Lord. 3:1
- B. There is no joy in religion. 3:2-3

The Difference Between Religion and a Real Relationship w/ Jesus

1. Religion is always about what I do. Christianity is about what Jesus did.
2. Religion is about what I know and what I do. Christianity is based on who I know, what He did and who I am in Him.
3. Religion is grounded in outward activities. Christianity is based in inner realities.
4. Religion is a matter of the natural efforts of my flesh. Christianity is about the supernatural fruit of the Spirit.
5. Religion is about the pressure to meet a standard. Christianity is about the pleasure of knowing a Person.
6. Religion is about trying to earn righteousness. Christianity is about receiving righteousness.
7. Religion is all about me. Christianity is all about Jesus.

- C. Paul lost his religion in order to find a relationship with Jesus. 3:4-8
- D. Religion has an inadequate source of righteousness. 3:9
 - Self-righteous leads to death. Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23
 - Jesus' righteousness leads to life. Romans 6:23
 - Jesus took our sin and death so we can receive His righteousness and life. 2 Corinthians 5:21
 - We receive Jesus' righteousness and life by faith. Ephesians 2:8-9
- E. Religion is unable to truly satisfy a soul and change a life. 3:10

II. CHOOSE JOY BY PURSUING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

- A. Pursuing religion results in frustration. (Luke 10:38-42)
- B. Pursuing Jesus was the primary passion of Paul. 3:10
- C. Pursuing Jesus results in love, joy and peace. Galatians 5:22-23
- D. Pursuing Jesus is a matter of time, trust and talk.
- E. Pursuing Jesus will change your life