

Jesus, Greater Than Religion

Colossians 2:16-23

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Pastor Chris preaches from the CSB.

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Bible Study Tip

- What did it mean to the original audience?
- What does it mean now?
- What does it mean to me personally?

Biblical Premise

- Jesus is better than religion, and religion is different from the Gospel.
- Jesus is not one of many gods. Jesus is The Way, The Truth, The Life, no one comes to the Father but through Him.

My Next Step

- Put Jesus first in every part of my life.
- To go back to some of our legalistic habits and act like prisoners when we are free.
- Our bent is to go back to a graceless religion.

Defining Terms

- “Religion”: What one must do, or how one must behave in order gain a right standing with God.

Three Ways Jesus Is Greater Than Religion

1. Religion is only a shadow, Jesus is the reality.
 - Jesus plus nothing = everything.
 - Paul’s point was to show all these Old Testament shadows were there only to point to Jesus.

The Bible

- It’s not about you, but it is for you.

2. Religion promotes legalism, Jesus promotes liberty.

The Law

- Is a Mirror.
- Is a Map.

Problem

- He expects others to adopt his rules.
- We make our preferences our prejudices.

Here’s How To Think About It

- What God condemns is never good, what God condones is always right, what God neither condemns nor condones is a matter of conscience.
- Gods’ rules are for everyone, your rules are for you.

3. Religion is about external conformity, Jesus is about internal change.