

Religion Bytes - 1 - "Religion Never Works"

1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.

2 All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia.

3 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

4 Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.**5** All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. **Galatians 1:1-5 (NLT)**

RELIGION - MAN'S ATTEMPT TO PLEASE GOD BY ADHERING TO RULES AND REGULATIONS.

Who wrote Galatians?	<u>Paul</u>
When was it written?	<u>49-56 A.D.</u>
Why was it written?	Correct <u>false</u> teaching

6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way [a different Gospel - NIV] that pretends to be the Good News **7** but is not the Good News at all. **Galatians 1:6-7a (NLT)**

Metatithemi – in the process of transporting, or changing sides, deserting.

WHY ARE MANY DRAWN TO RELIGION?

1) PROVIDES A SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENT.

2) PROVIDES A FALSE COMFORT.

THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION

1) RELIGION BRINGS CONFUSION .

Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion ...

*You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. **Galatians 1:7b (NLT)***

8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. **Galatians 1:8 (NLT)**

NIV - let him be eternally condemned!

Anathema – consecrated to complete destruction.

2) RELIGION FOCUSES ON MAN'S WORKS.

10 Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant. **Galatians 1:10 (NLT)**

Religion is spelled "do."
Christianity is spelled "done."

Religion is man's attempt to reach God.
Christianity is God's attempt to reach man.

Religion focuses on the external.
Christianity focuses on the internal.

11 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. [Not something that man made up] **12** I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ. **Galatians 1:11, 12 (NLT)**

13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. **Galatians 1:13 (NLT)**

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him **16** to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles. **Galatians 1:15-16 (NLT)**

23 All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" **24** And they praised God because of me. **Galatians 1:23-24 (NLT)**

HOW ARE YOU WORKING TO GAIN GOD'S APPROVAL?

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN "ADDING" TO CHRISTIANITY?
