

I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT ...

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Killjoy God

The Bad News About Religion

- Religion focuses on the _____ I rather than the _____

²⁵“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

Matthew 23:25-26 (NIV11)

³... don't follow their [the Pharisees] example. For they don't practice what they teach. ⁴They crush people with impossible religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. **Matthew 23:3b-4 (NLT)**

The Good News About Jesus

²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. ²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Romans 3:20-22a (NIV11)

1. You cannot earn God's acceptance by obeying the law

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; **Romans 3:20 (NIV11)**

2. The purpose of the law is to show your need of a _____

Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. **Romans 3:20 (NIV11)**

Until you see yourself as a _____
you won't see your need for a _____.

3. Being right with God comes by _____ in _____ alone.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. **Romans 3:22a (NIV11)**

Religion complicates with laws

Jesus simplifies with love!

Prayer

Jesus, what you did to take the place of the law for us is beyond what we can possibly repay with our good works. Thank you. Instead, we want to give you our love and our life. Will You show us how to receive Yours? Amen.

My Next Step Today Is To...

- Meditate on and/or memorize Romans 3:22. When you start to try to ward off fear and shame with rules or work, quote this verse and be motivated by God's love.
- Give thanks to God for the undeserved grace that I have experienced in my life.
- Stop trying to earn God's favor and instead start relying on his love expressed in the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Take a step past the doubts that I have and invite God into my life receiving him as Savior and Lord.