

# 3 – Religion and the Gospel also differ in how we TREAT PEOPLE who do not SHARE OUR BELIEFS

# 4 – Religion and the Gospel also differ in the way each leads people to handle TROUBLES and SUFFERING

Religion is based on the premise that since we are doing such a good job of keeping the rules that we deserve a happy life.

# 5 – Religion is SAFE the Gospel is DANGEROUS

*Romans 6:15 – 23 –<sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not!<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or obedience resulting in righteousness?<sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that though you were slaves to sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching you were entrusted to,<sup>18</sup> and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.<sup>19</sup> . . . For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness.<sup>21</sup> So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death.<sup>22</sup> But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life.<sup>23</sup> For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God doesn't owe us ANYTHING – we owe him EVERYTHING

Further reading: *The Reason for God*, Timothy Keller



SCC Message by John Aldax, March 27, 2011

Part 12

RELIGION and the GOSPEL

Romans 7

*<sup>16</sup> I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”  
Romans 1:16 & 17*

## ***RELIGION: A SELF-SALVATION PROJECT***

Why is Jekyll's bad side named Hyde?

- Because he is HIDEOUS
- Because he was HIDDEN

*Romans 7:18 – 21 –<sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my flesh. For I want to do the good, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me. <sup>21</sup> So, I find the law that when I want to do good, evil is present with me.*

“**Live**” means to DWELL to OCCUPY A HOUSE, to settle down and be at home.

“**Flesh**” is the SENSUOUS NATURE of man with cravings that incite us to sin.

“**Present**” means to LIE BESIDE to be near, to be at hand.

*Genesis 4:7 – “If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it.”*

Even in the very best people there is a capacity to do terrible things, driven by self-centeredness, and it's far greater and far worse than you ever imagined. And it's **hidden** from you.

*Romans 7:21 – 24 – <sup>21</sup> I have discovered this principle of life — that when I want to do what is right, evil is right there with me – (NIV). <sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. <sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (NLT)*

*Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? (NET Bible)*

## **WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?**

*Romans 2:14 – 15 – <sup>14</sup> Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, <sup>15</sup> since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness . . . ”*

And almost all cultures and religions try to apply THE MORAL LAW to our BAD NATURE.

Why would Jekyll become Hyde without the potion?

Keeping the moral law (self-salvation), does not REDUCE pride and self-centeredness – it makes it WORSE.

*Romans 7:5 – For when we were controlled by the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. Romans 7:7 – 9 – <sup>7</sup> What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what sin was except through the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “Do not covet.” <sup>8</sup> But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. <sup>9</sup> Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.*

*Philippians 3:4 – 6 – <sup>4</sup> If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.*

*Philippians 3:7 – 9 – <sup>7</sup> But these assets I have come to regard as liabilities because of Christ. <sup>8</sup> More than that, I now regard all things as liabilities compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things – indeed, I regard them as dung! – that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law [religion], but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ's faithfulness – a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ's faithfulness. (NET Bible)*

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOSPEL AND RELIGION**

# 1 – The primary difference between religion and the Gospel is MOTIVATION

# 2 – Another difference has to do with our IDENTITY and how we SEE OURSELVES