

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



SCC Message by John Aldax, March 27, 2011

Part 12

RELIGION and the GOSPEL

Romans 7

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.

¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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

5 – Religion is SAFE the Gospel is DANGEROUS

Romans 6:15 – 23 – ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Absolutely not! ¹⁶ 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? ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ and having been freed from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness. ¹⁹ . . . 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. ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free with regard to righteousness. ²¹ So what benefit did you then reap from those things that you are now ashamed of? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now, freed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your benefit leading to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. ²³ For the payoff of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:18 – 21 – ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but I do the very evil I do not want! ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer me doing it but sin that lives in me. ²¹ 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.

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

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.”

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

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 – ²¹ I have discovered this principle of life — that when I want to do what is right, evil is right there with me – (NIV). ²² I love God's law with all my heart. ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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 – ¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ 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 – ⁷ 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.” ⁸ But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire. For apart from law, sin is dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died.

Philippians 3:4 – 6 – ⁴ If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ 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; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Philippians 3:7 – 9 – ⁷ But these assets I have come to regard as liabilities because of Christ. ⁸ 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, ⁹ 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