

**Hebrews #23**  
**Hebrews 10:1-18**  
**Religion Fails**  
**16077-A October 2, 2016**

- I. **Jesus did not like Religion. Matt.23:25-28. Woe to you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites...**
- A. The way the Jewish leaders practiced Judaism in the 1<sup>st</sup> century is a paradigm for understanding all human religion.
- A.1. It was legalistic, which produced exhaustion. (Matt.23:4; 11:25-30)
- A.1.a) Hallmark of human religion is that we earn a place at God's Table by obeying His Law.
- A.1.b) Human earning through religious details. Heavy weight.
- A.2. It was external, which produced hypocrisy. (Matt.23:25-28)
- A.2.a) The outside looks good for others, but the inside remains unchanged.
- A.3. It was elitist, which produced arrogance. (Lk.18:9-14)
- A.3.a) Success in this system inevitably produced arrogance instead of humility.
- II. **Why Religion Fails and Jesus Succeeds: Three Reasons Read Hebrews 10:1-18 (**
- A. **Religion reminds us of sin instead of removing it. 1-4, 11-14 (Col. 2:16-17)**
- A.1. Human religion is a perpetual reminder of human failure: The Great Gulf.
- A.1.a) Even God's Own Law never really dealt with the sin.
- A.1.b) Torah was meant to symbolize the removal of sin, not actually remove it.
- A.2. The Lord removes our sin instead of just managing it.
- A.2.a) Perfect = telios = complete, whole; sins taken away; sanctified; forgiven
- A.2.b) Completely expunges the record. The conscience cleaned from the inside.Col.2:14
- A.2.c) Sanctified, made holy. Hebrews uses this word like Paul uses Justification (Schreiner, Hebrews)
- B. **Religion relies on our sacrifice instead of Christ's. 5-7, 11-14 (ps. 40)**
- B.1. Its focus is your obedience as the source of life rather than Christ's obedience for you.
- B.1.a) *Remember the little girl who came up and told me she wanted to come to Christ, but wasn't sure she could do everything right.*
- B.2. The Lord offers his obedience as the way into God's presence.
- B.2.a) We sit at God's table based on Christ's obedience, active and passive.
- B.2.b) His active fulfillment of the Law (Matt.5:17) I am here to do your will.
- B.2.c) His passive fulfillment of the curse of the Law (Gal.3:13) Taking our blame.
- B.3. And His Work is final. He is seated, but the priests are standing. No couch in the Temple!
- B.3.a) He takes away the first (covenant) in order to establish the second (new covenant)
- B.3.b) He has perfected us. (Perfect tense -- complete action in past with continual results)
- B.3.c) For all time (not just for now)
- B.3.d) Those who are being made holy (set apart and made like Him)
- C. **Religion makes us compliant instead of holy. 5,6,10, 14**
- C.1. Holiness (sanctification) is not just compliance with external accountability, rules.
- C.1.a) Compliance with the Law (sacrifices and burnt offerings) without a real change in the heart. Matt.15:7-9/Isa.29:13
- C.1.b) Compliance is a good thing in the right venue (Titus 3:1-2)
- (C.1.b.1) But Accountability/compliance does not produce integrity!
- C.2. The Lord actually sanctifies us completely and this transforms our behavior. 16-17
- C.2.a) Hebrews uses sanctification like Paul uses justification.
- C.2.b) He transforms our heart. 15-18
- C.2.c) *His will in your heart. The essence of the Law written in our intuitions.*

III. **Three common delusions to avoid:**

A. **That you can come into God's presence without actually being perfect. Mtt. 5:48**

A.1. Extremely common feeling about God these days. Rom. 3:23; 6:23

A.2. The whole Bible warns against this idea. Evil is real and we have it in our souls. Sin is real and we must be separated from it if we are to enter God's presence (the Holy of Holies).

B. **That if you come under Christ's High Priesthood, your behavior doesn't matter.**

B.1. The opposite is true. The presence of the Spirit, the Word, and the Body of Christ combine to keep us in a state of grateful repentance and gracious progress. **1 Jn.3:9-10**

C. **That you must wait until it's over to know that you are forgiven.**

C.1. *Assurance is available now, because it is not based on our obedience. Rom.3:28*

C.1.a) You cannot and must not atone for your own sins. Balance karma?

C.2. *Do not live under the constant threat of guilt of past sins that you have repented of.*

C.2.a) *Forgiveness is a deliberate and permanent act on God's part.*

C.2.b) *Does this mean that we should forget that we have been forgiven? No. Paul didn't forget that he was a sinner saved by Grace. 1 Tim.1:15-16*

(C.2.b.1) People who forget that they have been forgiven are insufferable Pharisees

C.2.c) *Does he mean that we will never have anything for which to confess and repent in the future? No*

(C.2.c.1) We are under conviction often and need to repent/confess regularly.

C.2.d) *Does this mean that we don't need to confess and repent in our sins against each other? No.*

(C.2.d.1) When we sin against another person, we owe it to the Lord and to the "victim" to confess that. But our forgiveness with God is not at risk.