

**Losing My Religion**  
Part 6: **Religious Skubala**  
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**Passage [READ IT]:**

Philippians 3:1-14

**Principles [KNOW THEM]:**

Paul's Problem with Religion:

Values **ritual** over **relationship**

Gives a **false sense** of **security**

Paul's Response to Religion:

Those who promote religion over a relationship with Jesus are **DOGS!**

It's **SKUBALA** compared to knowing Jesus!

Paul's Alternative to Religion:

A lifelong passionate **pursuit** of **Jesus**

**Practices [DO THEM]:**

Questions to consider:

1. Have you allowed religion to become a substitute for a passionate pursuit of Jesus?
2. Are you still running the race, or have you taken a seat in the stands?
3. Have you reached the place where everything you value is skubala compared to your love for Jesus?

**Daily Readings:**

**Monday:** Philippians 3

**Tuesday:** Matthew 7

**Wednesday:** John 15

**Thursday:** Galatians 5

**Friday:** Luke 14

**Saturday:** Acts 15

**Sunday:** Acts 21

**Check out these books on this topic:**

***The End of Religion***, Bruxy Cavey

***The Jesus I Never Knew***, Philip Yancey

***The Barbarian Way***, Erwin McManus

## Small Group Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. Can a person be a passionate Jesus follower without being religious? Would that person participate in our church? Why or why not?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read Matthew 7:16-20.
  - a. What does it mean that Jesus calls false prophets "wolves in sheep's clothing"?
  - b. Do you believe religion still provides cover for false prophets today? How do you know?
  - c. How are we to recognize the false prophets? What is "good fruit"? (see John 15:5-8 & Galatians 5:22-23)
4. Read Matthew 7:21-23.
  - a. What is the difference between those who are granted entrance to the Kingdom of heaven and those who do not?
  - b. What is the difference between doing the will of God (v. 21) and the works mentioned in verse 22?
  - c. What is your personal reaction to Jesus' words in vs. 21-23?
5. Read Matthew 7:24-28.
  - a. What is the same about the wise man and the foolish man? What is different?
  - b. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What does Paul suggest we use as our foundation?
  - c. What materials are sure to fail? Paul mentions Gold and straw in the same list. What do you think that means?
  - d. What is the difference between building your life on the foundation of religion and building upon the foundation of Jesus Christ?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

6. Is there anything in your life (possession, relationship, dream, habit, or hang-up) more precious than your relationship with Jesus? What is it? How would your life be different if that thing took second place to Jesus? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.