

Losing My Religion
Part 3: **Bad Religion**
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Southside Baptist Church
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Passage [READ IT]:

Colossians 2:11-17

Principles [KNOW THEM]:

“Good” religion should be three things:

1. **Constructive**
2. **Compassionate**
3. **Countercultural**

“Bad” religion:

1. Requires **knowledge** and/or **achievement** for salvation
2. Deemphasizes **sin** and its **penalty**
3. Values **symbolism** over **substance**

Practices [DO THEM]:

Are you a Jesus follower? Join us in celebrating communion this morning.

Are you still seeking answers about Jesus? Join Starting Point beginning Sunday, March 8, at 9:00 a.m.

Daily Readings:

Monday: James 1-2

Tuesday: James 3

Wednesday: James 4

Thursday: James 5

Friday: Galatians 1-2

Saturday: Galatians 3-4

Sunday: Galatians 5-6

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. How do you define religion? Describe the difference between good and bad religion?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

3. Read Galatians 2:1-10.
 - a. Why is the fact that the apostles did not force Titus to be circumcised significant?
 - b. What was the purpose of the "false brothers"? What made them "false"?
 - c. What silenced the false brothers and disrupted their plans?
 - d. What does this account tell us about the first century church?
 - e. Why is this scene significant for us today?
4. Read Galatians 2:11-14.
 - a. What was Paul's problem with Cephas (Peter) when he visited the church in Antioch?
 - b. Were Peter's actions in Antioch an example of good or bad religion?
 - c. Put yourself in Peter's position. Why was this such a difficult situation for him?
5. Read Galatians 2:15-21.
 - a. What does Paul mean by "works of the law"?
 - b. Might this be another way of saying "religion"? Why or why not?
 - c. What has Paul "torn down" and why doesn't he want to rebuild it? (v. 18-19)
 - d. To what has Paul died? What is his new source of life? (v.20)

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

6. Are there religious rituals and routines that are more important to you than your relationship with Jesus? In what way(s) would you most likely be tempted to allow religion to become a substitute for Jesus? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.