

Losing My Religion: Religion Makes Jesus Sick

TAKE TO HEART WHAT IS WRITTEN... BECAUSE THE TIME IS NEAR. — REV 1:3

Week 8

REVIEW

1. Religion relies on rituals and doctrines but Christianity is the reality of a Creator building relationship with his creation.
2. We don't have time for religious games because our King is coming soon!
3. Religion is heartless, but following Jesus means loving God and others.
4. Religion is easy, but following Jesus takes tough endurance.
5. Religion is deceptive, but following Jesus means faithfulness to the truth.
6. Religion is power, but Jesus has all authority.
7. Religion puts people to sleep, but Jesus wants us to walk with him.
8. Religion is about us, but following Jesus is all about Him.

THE SERIES: THE LIFE GOD HAS FOR US IS NOT ABOUT RITUALS AND DOCTRINE BUT ABOUT LOVE, FAITHFULNESS, TRUTH, AUTHORITY, LIFE, AND OWNERSHIP. ULTIMATELY, IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS.

Religion makes Jesus **sick** because **Jesus**,
only **Jesus** can solve our deepest **need**!

The Church in Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)

JESUS IS...

- "**Amen**" (the final affirmation of truth)
- **Faithful** and **True** Witness
- **Ruler** of **Creation**

THAT MEANS JESUS KNOWS WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON

THE CHURCH IS **Lukewarm**!

WE'VE SEEN JESUS MAD • VOMIT • WHAT'S SO BAD?

Option 1:

They were neither **passionate** nor **resistant**, but just over the line—a "**C+**" mentality.

C+ MENTALITY • CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION? • AS PREACH-ABLE AS THAT IS, IT DOESN'T FIT

Facts about Laodicea:

1. They had bred sheep to produce a **glossy** black **wool**.
2. They were so rich, they **cached** government checks.
3. They had a medical school with a miracle **cure** for eye conditions.
4. They had **terrible water**.

HIERAPOLIS & COLOSSAE • HEALING V. REFRESHING

Option 2:

As a church, they were spiritually **useless**.

I have never been in a church that was full-bore passionate about making a difference.
GP: HOW ARE WE DOING? HOT OR COLD? • LAODICEA IS RELIGION AT IT'S PEAK, THE ONLY THING GOING ON IS THE CHURCH, AND THEY'VE MISSED THE TRUTH

LESSON ONE:

- ONLY JESUS CAN SOLVE OUR DEEPEST NEED •

Religion has the power to

hide our deepest **need**.

IN THE MIDST OF THEIR CHURCHIANITY, THEY HAVE MISSED THE TRUTH

You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.

Revelation 3:17

ILL: KATIE'S FRISBEE INJURY, "IF I DON'T TOUCH MY BUMP..." • religion = avoid the bumps
BUMP: LOST LOVED ONE / DESIRE FOR PURPOSE / LONGING FOR RELATIONSHIPS
THE LONGER RELIGIOUS, THE MORE DELUDED • CONFESSION • FORGET MY NEED FOR JESUS

LESSON TWO:

Religion has the power to

shut Jesus out of our lives.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

TINY JESUS AT YOUR HEART?

Following Jesus means **following Jesus**!

LETTER TO THE CHURCH! • PICTURE THE SCENE

JESUS, ONLY JESUS, CAN SOLVE OUR DEEPEST NEED.