



Thru God's Eye: Life in the REAL World

What About Religion? Can It Meet Your Most Basic Needs?

Crossroads, October 23, 2011 - Mark Bickel



Intro

Colossians 2:6-15

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Questions

- Why is it people do not go to church? (or decide to leave the church?)
- What is it people are looking for when they decide to 'get spiritual', or 'become religious'?

1) What is Religion? How do You Pick One?

- **Basic Definitions:**
- **How do You pick one?**

- **The Problem with Religion**

- True Faith requires belief in the God who created the universe - **Hebrews 11:1-3, 6**
- True godliness needs to power of God Himself - **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
- Many people want benefits of religion, but without encountering the true God!
- But without the power of God religion is worthless ... in that regard atheist right – if there is no God then it is foolish, even dangerous to have religion!
- But the God of the Bible, in addition to claiming the role of creator and God, also demands more than simply religion, rather he calls us to give him all our heart, soul, mind and strength ... transforming not just our 'religious practices but all of life!

- **Application:**

- *Religion is utterly worthless without God, and vitally critical to all of life in light of God*

2) Does Religion Meet Our Most Basic Need?

- **How do religions describe our need?**

- **How do religions try to meet our need?**

- **What does the Bible say?**

- Need is not ...
- Need is ...
- **Romans 5:6-11**
- *Bible is ONLY religious book that offers this drastic a statement of the problem and this amazing of a solution ... all other religions fall far short of true reconciliation to God*

- **Application:**

- Critical to first **define the need correctly** before we can ask what religions meet the need
- Once need is truly seen and felt, **no solution other than Jesus Christ** can come close to meeting it
- For self, and for reaching others, there **can be no good news without grasping the bad news!**
- Fortunately, **God's Spirit is in the business of convicting** and showing people sin!

3) False Christianity

- Legalistic, self-made religion - Colossians 2:22-23
- Permissive, worthless religion - James 1:22-27
- Application:
 - **2 hands illustration** - Bible says both are connected, but connected in a specific order.
 - **"Christian" cults**
 - **Look at our own heart and life**

4) Authentic Christianity

- Seeing God for who He is
- Acknowledging our sin, rebellion and self-worship
- Coming to Jesus
- Seeking to live out of that redemption
- Offering all our lives in love of God ... and through Him in love of neighbor
- Trusting in God's promises
- Giving God all the glory

Conclusions and Applications – Questions for each of us this week

- How authentic is your Christianity?
- Is your religion self-made or worthless religion, or is it the religion God desires?

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, **as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him**, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Recommended Reading:

- **World Religions in a Nutshell** by Ray Comfort
- **So What's The Difference? A Look at 20 Worldviews, Faiths and Religions and How They Compare to Christianity** by Fritz Ridenour
- **AMG's Handi-Reference: World Religions and Cults** compiled by John Hunt with Dan Penwell
- **Kingdom of the Cults** by Walter Martin with Revi Zacharius
- **Rose Publishing Resources** – World Religions, Cults and Denominations all have pamphlets and powerpoint files. Several specific religions also have pamphlets and some have powerpoint files.

NEXT WEEK: Does Love Really Win? Heaven, Hell and the End of Life as We Know It.



October / November Calendar

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
23 6:30 Crossroads What About Religion? Can it meet our most basic needs?	24 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	25	26	27 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" - Money	28 7:00-9:00 Coffeehouse for Uganda	29 5:00 GBFC Men's Night Sports, Games, Pizza...
30 6:30 Crossroads Does Love Win? Heaven, Hell and the End of Life as We Know it.	31* 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	1	2 <i>*Application for BFC 2012 Mexico Mission due Oct. 31</i>	3 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" - Relationships	4 9:00 IS Bowling	5
6 10 am Celebration Worship & Lunch 6:30 Crossroads Opening Eyes: Helping Others Discover Life in the REAL World	7 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	8	9	10 8:00 Bible Study "Weird" - Sexuality	11 ** BFC Tanzania Banquet	12 ** Q.Town Conf. on Reformed Theology
13 9 am Missions Worship & Café' 6:30 Crossroads ** Missions Night - Warners (Mongolia), Josh Mills, Skype with Andrew & Jess	14 6:00 Sports Basketball in Grace Gym	15	16 Missions: 5:30 - meal 7 - program	17 No Bible Study Missions week	18 Missions: 7 - program	19 Missions: 8:30 - prayer breakfast 5 - dinner & missions fest.

Upcoming Events

Friday October 28 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm

CoffeeHouse to raise awareness and support for Katie Yori's upcoming trip to Uganda

Saturday October 29 at 5:00 pm

Men's Night Out at Grace – Sports, Games and Pizza

Friday November 4 at 9:00 pm - Midnight

Go with Widener International Students Bowling (\$10)

Stay in Touch!

Web: GraceBFC.org/Crossroads
Facebook: Crossroads Young Adult Community
Email: mbickel@gracebfc.org

Mark Your Calendars

November 20

International Student Thanksgiving

February 10-12, 2012

Crossroads Winter Retreat

Other Events of Interest

**** BFC Tanzania Project Banquet:** Friday night Nov. 11, Cedar Crest BFC, Allentown

**** Quakertown Regional Conference on Reformed Theology: Our Great God**
– Fri. night Nov. 11 and Sat. Nov. 12

**** Mark Bickel is attending both events**