

# Changing the Way You Think

## The Authority of Scripture (Part 5): *The Counterfeit of Religion*

Many believer today approach the Bible as an important spiritual book, full of wisdom and good advice, but see it as outdate, especially in some of its moral standards, values, and restrictions.

### Counterfeits of Truth

- Personal Preference
- Cultural Morals and Values
- Religion

### James 1:27

**Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

- Implies that Religion can be impure and fault-filled – Another Counterfeit

## Scriptureless or Scripturelight Religion

### Hosea 4:1-6

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The Lord has brought charges against you, saying: “There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You make vows and break them; you kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere—one murder after another. That is why your land is in mourning, and everyone is wasting away...**“Don’t point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! My complaint, you priests, is with you.** So you will stumble in broad daylight, and your false prophets will fall with you in the night. And I will destroy Israel, your mother. **My people are being destroyed because they don’t know me.**

### Acts 17:10-12

Paul and Silas came by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these people were more noble-minded...for they **received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.** Therefore, many of them believed, along with a significant number of prominent Greek women and men.

- **Their Dedication to knowing Scripture both increased their faith and witnessed to others**
- **We must become well acquainted with the Bible**
- There is no substitute for the Word of God
- Not Works of Service, Not Emotional Worship, Not Sensational Holy Spirit Experiences
- At Best They are Secondary, Supplementary – and at worst they can be counterfeited by the enemy

### Hebrews 5:11-14

Concerning Jesus we have much to say, and *it is* difficult to explain, since you have become poor listeners. For though **by this time you ought to be teachers,** you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. **For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.**

# Faithless Religion

## John 5:39-47

"You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! <sup>40</sup> Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

<sup>41</sup> "Your approval means nothing to me, <sup>42</sup> because I know you don't have God's love within you. <sup>43</sup> For I have come to you in my Father's name, and you have rejected me. Yet if others come in their own name, you gladly welcome them. <sup>44</sup> **No wonder you can't believe!** For you gladly honor each other, but you don't care about the honor that comes from the one who alone is God.

<sup>45</sup> "Yet it isn't I who will accuse you before the Father. Moses will accuse you! Yes, Moses, in whom you put your hopes. <sup>46</sup> If you really believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me. <sup>47</sup> But since you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

- Scripture Just Became Another Comfortable Way of Propping Up of Self
- Knew Them, But Didn't Really Believe Them

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5

You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. <sup>2</sup> For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. <sup>3</sup> They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. <sup>4</sup> They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. <sup>5</sup> **They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.** Stay away from people like that!

*The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians: who acknowledge Jesus with their lips and go out and deny Him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.*

- Brendan Manning

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**Romans 15:4**