

**“The Blindness Of Human Standards” Part 2 *Genesis 1:1-7; Matthew 23; John 8:12-20***

**What did the Lord Jesus Christ think of religion and its practices which are based primarily on human standards? Matthew 23.**

**Religion is the worst thing in the world and Christianity is the best thing in the world; Jude 24-25.**

***Religion is man seeking to gain the approval of God by his own works either for salvation first or for spirituality after salvation.***

**Christianity is God doing something for man through His grace and God receiving the glory from man’s salvation and for his spirituality.**

**Any system of religion which is man-centered (man seeking to solve man’s problems by man’s efforts) is satanic in nature and basically becomes a worship of Satan, the author of DIY salvation.**

**The sin nature has an area of self-righteous human good which promotes a vain appeal to God through fellow man’s approval.**

***Religion deeply appeals to the lustful desires of the sin nature for attention or emotional stimulation.***

**And at its fullest expression, religion is often a great persecutor and murderer, a destroyer first of human freedom and then human bodies.**

**The author of religion, Satan himself was also the originator of pride which was both the precursor to the sin of Satan and the motivation for his fall.**

**Satan was the greatest creature ever to come from the Hand of God; he had the finest beauty, personality and intelligence to go with it but his problem was, he assumed he was as great as God.**

***Lucifer actually thought he could overthrow God as his arrogance clouded his understanding of the nature and power of God.***

**Human pride which sponsors religion is only neutralized by the ability to think God’s thoughts and relate ourselves to life through His grace.**

**Darkness had its origin in Satan; God did not bring darkness on the earth; Satan brought it through his fall and the resulting angelic dispute.**

**That is why darkness is used many times in Scripture to illustrate sinfulness, Satan's kingdom and the absence of man's relationship with God.**

*Darkness cannot sustain plant, animal or human life and God solves the problem of darkness with light because light has heat and energy making it possible for life to exist.*

**Darkness belongs to the devil who cannot produce light, create life or provide regeneration for anyone.**

**Believers are loved by God; not because of who or what they are but because of Who and what God is!**

**Romans 8:32** "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"

*Romans 5:10 "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son (the most), how much more (than the most), having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"*

**Sorry, religious legalists; grace depends on Who and what Jesus Christ is and what Jesus Christ does for us and not you or what you do or don't do for yourself.**

**The Christian walk is designed to be a 'Lighted walk.'**

**Luke 2:52 "And Jesus (humanity) grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."**

**Jesus' witness was true because He was operating under the specific authority of God.**

*The religious person projects nothing to the plan of God and when you apply nothing to anything,*

*you still have nothing.*

**Mental attitude sins cloud one's thinking.**

**More people have been killed in the name of religion than practically anything else.**

**To know the Father, one must know the Son and vice versa.**

**Galatians 3:26** "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,"

*All of Hell including Satan himself cannot remove us from this earth until God calls for our removal!*

**God is not a genie in a magic lamp and He cannot be bought or bribed.**

**God is perfect and therefore, His plan is perfect.**

**The Lord Jesus Christ was in the most dangerous place possible!**