

I Want to  
**BELIEVE**  
BUT...

**“The Kill-Joy God ”**

Mike Dally— Lead Pastor - mikedally@gcc-ministries.org  
August 27, 2017

Christianity for many is - Follow the \_\_\_\_\_. Be \_\_\_\_\_. Be \_\_\_\_\_.

People are not rejecting \_\_\_\_\_—

Rejecting how people wrongly \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

**THE BAD NEWS ABOUT RELIGION**

**RELIGION FOCUSES ON THE \_\_\_\_\_  
RATHER THAN THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. Matthew 23:25-26*

Religion attempts to close the gap by human \_\_\_\_\_.

*...Don't follow [the example of the Pharisees]. For they don't practice what they teach. <sup>4</sup> They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden. Matthew 23:3-4 NLT*

**THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS**

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. 21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:20-22*

**1. YOU CANNOT EARN GOD'S \_\_\_\_\_ BY  
OBEYING THE \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law... Romans 3:20*

**2. THE PURPOSE OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ IS TO SHOW YOUR NEED  
OF A \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.  
Romans 3:20*

**3. BEING RIGHT WITH GOD COMES BY \_\_\_\_\_ IN  
CHRIST \_\_\_\_\_.**

*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe... Romans 3:22*

**Memory verse:** *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, —Ephesians 2:8*

(Rules, Nice, Safe, Christ, Represent, External, Internal, Effort, Acceptance, Law, Law, Savior, Faith, Alone)

**My Next Step Today is...**

- Memorize Ephesians 2:8
- Did you grow up hearing about a lot of rules in church? How do you think this shaped your view of God?
- Read Romans 3:20. What are some ways we expect ourselves or people to follow the law to earn righteousness today?
- Do you live more like your rule-following makes you close to God or like Jesus makes you close to God? How does this play out for you?
- I want to talk to someone about receiving Christ as my Savior.

Check out Gateway's Page on Facebook!

Listen to past sermons and find out more about Gateway at our website—  
[www.gatewaychristian.church](http://www.gatewaychristian.church)  
Next Week's sermon - **“I Want to Believe, But... ”**