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## Religion or Relationship

*By Shannon Ford on March 10, 2021*

### **TODAY'S READING:** Galatians 3

Every religion is basically trying to answer the same two questions: 1) How do you relate to God? and 2) How can you have a relationship with God? Not only do all religions ask the same two questions, but they all basically give the same answer: How you live before you die determines where you go after you die.

Galatians 3 shows that Jesus did not come to introduce us to a new religion. He came to deliver us from religion so we could enter into a relationship with God. The only remedy for how we live with all our mistakes and mess-ups is redemption, not religion. The only way to find redemption is through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the only way to have a right standing with God. He alone has justified all who come to Him in faith and accept His sacrificial death on their behalf. The curse of the law can only be removed by the cure of the cross. Christ became a curse for those who lived under the curse of the law. Born under the law (Galatians 4:4), He took the curse of the law upon himself. Christ's death on the cross removed the law's curse and opened the way of salvation for Jews and Gentiles alike.

The law can reveal sin, but only Christ can redeem sin. If you are going to perform your way to God, then you have got to meet His standard, not yours, and that is impossible. While the law reminds us of our shortcomings and our inability to meet God's standard, it also refers us to the One who died for our shortcomings and meets the standard for us, and that is Jesus.

Paul emphasized that being made right before God comes by grace through faith in Christ (relationship), not keeping the law (religion). Once you make the decision to have a relationship with Christ, you will lay down the law and lose your religion. You will find everything you need at the cross of Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER:** Dear Lord, forgive me for the times when I have tried to prove myself to You by my religious acts. I confess my sin of self-righteousness and profess my trust in Christ and His finished work. Amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING: Galatians 4**

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