

BUT DON'T BE RELIGIOUS

How to follow Jesus without becoming religious-John 7:14-24

Jesus clashed with religious leaders more than any other group of people. He went against their spiritual grain and challenged their legalistic ideas. Christ made it clear that He hadn't come to establish a new religion but rather to show the way to God His Father.

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He didn't give people another "system of beliefs and practices"; instead He said that He Himself was the way, truth, and life. In this public confrontation, we learn how to follow Christ in truth and not be religious

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I. Doctrine is Essential (vv. 14-16)

Jesus is a Teacher

Teaches doctrine (didasko - instruct, teach;
didache - doctrine)

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Jesus said to teach 36 times in the Gospels.

Jesus called Teacher 47 times. (didaskalos -
teacher)

"Doctrine" is mentioned 33 times in the New
Testament

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Doctrine is important

Hosea 4:6; Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 4:1

When truth is sidelined, it's often replaced by
religion.

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II. Discernment is Crucial (vv. 17-18, 24)

Evaluate what you hear; a spiritual man makes
judgments about everything

1 Corinthians 2:15

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Discernment is necessary; False prophets will
come to you in sheep's clothing Matthew 7:15

Two requirements for having a discerning spirit

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1. Willing mind

2. Worshipful heart

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"95% of knowing the will of God consists in
being willing to do it before you know what it
is" – Donald Grey Barnhouse

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III. Religion Can be Harmful (vv. 19-24)

1. It Justifies Evil

The Pharisees and Sadducees prided themselves on keeping the Law, but they were willing to kill Jesus in the name of religion

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Crusades- Christians killed in the name of
religion

September 11, 2001- radical Islam destroy
Americans in the name of religion

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2. It Minimizes Good

We have just *enough* religion to *make us hate*,
but not *enough to make us love one another*,"

Jonathan Swift.

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IV. A Comparison of Religion to the Gospel

1. Religion emphasizes the outward; the gospel emphasizes the inward— Matthew 6:5-13
2. Religion emphasizes prohibition; the gospel emphasizes freedom — John 8:32

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3. Religion sets up barriers; the gospel breaks
barriers down— Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11;
Matthew 11:38

4. Religion says, "Work your way"; Jesus says,
"I am the way" John 14:6



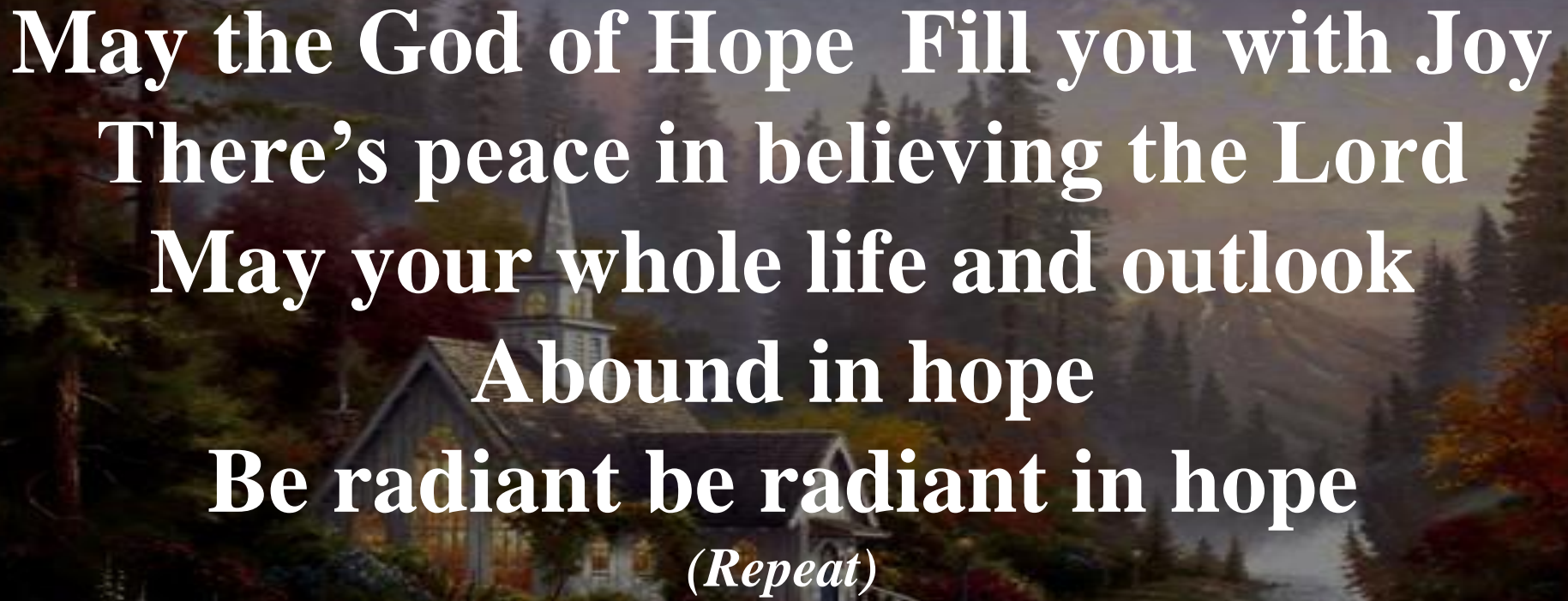
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(Romans 15:13)

**Now the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, that you may
abound in hope, through the power of the
Holy Spirit**



May the God of Hope Fill you with Joy
There's peace in believing the Lord
May your whole life and outlook
Abound in hope
Be radiant be radiant in hope
(Repeat)