

01/28/24 Message

Part of Same God - New Me
January 27, 2024

Message: New Religion

Series: Same God

Welcome to FCC! This is our new series for the new year that will hopefully inspire a new you! A new year can't and won't change our lives, but God can! We allow ungodly influences to change who we are. Yet, He is there, arms open wide, with more love to give than we deserve. Regardless of what we do, He is the same God! He is the same God who loves us so much, He created us! He is the same God who loves us so much, He offers us salvation! He is the same God and He wants a new me!

Review from First Message

1 Corinthians 12:6 (NLT)

God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

What work will God do in us?

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Hebrews 13:8 (NLT)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Acts 2:36 (KJV)

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

I love that phrase... Peter says we're talking about... That same Jesus! He's done it before; he'll do it again! He's the same yesterday, today, and forever! His ways may change, but He is always the same! We need to change! Same God

- new me... new you! God wants more of you!

—Pastor Chad

Act Right

People have been told all their life (from childhood) to act right. It's impacted the church because tradition and history has taught us to "act right" in church. Fact remains, Jesus doesn't want a theatre full of actors, He wants a church full of followers!

James 1:19-27 (NLT)

19 Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.

20 Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says.

Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

23 For if you listen to the word and don't obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror.

24 You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.

25 But if you look carefully into the perfect law that sets you free, and if you do what it says and don't forget what you heard, then God will bless you for doing it.

26 If you claim to be religious but don't control your tongue, you are fooling yourself, and your religion is worthless.

27 Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you.

Religion

James was saying – if you claim to be religious (think of yourself as religious, better than, first class, etc.) then you need to change your life! If you think dressing different, talking different, acting different a couple days a week changes who you are, then you need to meet Jesus and let Him change you the other five days.

How to Live for Jesus

- Control your tongue (v26)
- Follow (live by) God's Word (v22)
- Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry (v19)
- Get rid of all the filth and evil in your life (v21)
- Consider trouble an opportunity for great joy (v2)
- Make sure your faith is in Christ alone (v6)

We need a new religion (same God)

James 1:17-18 (NLT)

17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the light in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow!

18 He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession!

James, the brother of Jesus wants you to know, regardless of what you go through in life, the good, bad, and ugly, regardless of how bad your bad is... or how ugly your ugly is... Jesus never changes! He is the same God who stood with David as he slaughtered Goliath. He is the same God who enabled the virgin Mary to face the ridicule and public shame of being pregnant without a husband... as she delivered the Savior of the world. He is the same God who created everything in the universe, James specifically mentions He created all the lights in the heavens - and out of every single thing He created, He loves you the most. He loves you so much, He said you were His prized possession! This God... our God... the one true God... He's the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow! His ways may change, but He will never change! His love for you is unwavering regardless of your past, present, and future - His love never changes because He never changes - He is the same!

—Pastor Chad

It's time to stop acting religious and start following Jesus!