

MARK

- THE STORY OF JESUS -

PART 11 - YOUR WORK? REST IN THE WORK OF ANOTHER

Compare these Two Passages?

Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Mark 3:1-6

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

What is Legalism?

- It is living out of devotion to the law, not out of love for God and people.
- It is about adding to God's words
- It is about earning and achieving vs resting in the sufficient and lopsided grace of God
- It is like we are equal partners with God where we each make a contribution
- ~~Jesus + something = nothing~~ Jesus + something = something
- Jesus + nothing = everything

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5–6

Today We Will Look at ...

1. The power of Legalism,
2. The nature of Legalism, and
3. The antidote to legalism

1. The Power of Legalism

- Legalism is hard to see
- Legalism makes you bold
- Legalism makes you arrogant
- Legalism makes you unloving

2. The Nature of Legalism

- A human creation

6 February – news.com.au



An atheist organisation has erected this sign on the M4 motorway at Homebush West, in Sydney's inner west. *Source: Supplied*

"Every religion has an agenda, and those agenda are to control people. Most religions have an end goal and usually that involves power and money," Mr Marton said.

Locating Legalism

- Nice legalist
- Striving legalist
- Deal making legalist
- Judges and Punishers
- Angry legalist
- Resigned legalist
- Thankful Legalist

3. The Antidote to Legalism

- What motivates legalism?
 - Self exaltation
 - Desire for power
 - Love of status
 - Reputation
 - Stand in the limelight/show off
 - Based on superstition
 - Pride and suspicion

What Kills Legalism

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:1–7

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9

This is the Work of God ...

When they (the crowd) found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” John 6:25–29

You Even Need God's Help to Believe

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:4–6

The Sabbath You are Invited to ...

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness ... Romans 4:5