

I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT ...

“Killjoy” God

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1. The bad news about religion

- Religion focuses on the external rather than the internal
- Rules become the priority

²⁵ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy - full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶ You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. ²⁷ “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. ²⁸ Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.

Matthew 23:25-28 NLT

² “The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees are the official interpreters of the law of Moses. ³ So practice and obey whatever they tell you, but don’t follow their example. For they don’t practice what they teach. ⁴ They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

Matthew 23:2-4 NLT

2. The good news about Jesus

- You cannot earn God’s acceptance by obeying the law
- The purpose of the law is to show your need for a savior
- Being right with God comes by faith in Christ alone

²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are. ²¹ But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

Romans 3:20-22 NLT

Next Steps:

- Put my faith in Christ alone as my savior and not my own goodness or good works
- Focus on love instead of law and rules when it comes to living day to day, as I walk with God and love my neighbors
- Commit to seek joy and peace in life as I walk with God
- Attend the rest of this series (or watch on Youtube)
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