

GOOD NEWS FOR TOUGH TIMES



GOOD NEWS: SHUT DOWN RELIGION

Message by Paul Kiss



Jesus hasn't come to start a religion but to shut it all down.

■ Ephesians 2:19-22

I'm not "Religious"

- What do we mean when we say this?
- Latin - "re" (return, repeat) + "ligere" (to tie, to bind) = "Binding oneself to something important," or, "a return to bondage."

No need for religious practices

■ Ephesians 2:14-18; Romans 4:1-12 (4)

- Religion focuses on behaviour before identity.
- Jesus focuses on identity that transforms behaviour.
- Amos 5:21-24

No need for religious space

■ Ephesians 2:19-22

- John 2:13-22; John 14:15-25; 15:26; 16:12-15; 17:26
- Religion confines God to sacred space.
- Jesus brings God to a relational space; our hearts and community.

- In Christ, we become the dwelling place and those who dwell within that place, along with God. He is building us into his home, where he always wants to dwell.
- In this new way of dwelling, no one is restricted from coming to God.

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Religion thrives on holy geography and sacred architecture. For Jesus to thoroughly shut down religion, he needed to help us reconfigure our religious ideas of where we can go to meet with God. He needed to redefine what constitutes holy places and holy spaces.

— Bruxy Cavey, Reunion —

NL@HOME

Here are some things to consider at home this week. Try them on your own or with those who are with you.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Amos 5:21-24 - read it, think about it, memorize it, pray it (The Message translation).

A DAILY PRAYER:

"Heavenly Father, destroy within me every stronghold, every argument, every proud obstacle or system that keeps me from knowing you. Protect me from religious living and instead draw me closer to you, through Jesus Christ my Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory, honour and praise. Amen."

CONSIDER THIS (FOR CONVERSATION IF HELPFUL):

1. How do you view the term "religious"? Negatively or positively? Why?
2. How do you respond to Amos' challenge in 5:21-24?
(Read the larger passage for context).

**Give
it a try!**

Read Reunion, by Bruxy Cavey, Chapter 10: "Requiem for Religion."



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