

Assurance of Salvation Part 6

Doing religious activities

Assurance of Salvation

(Make sure while you can!)

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.

Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?

—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

(2 Corinthians 13:5, ESV)

1. Things that prove you *aren't* saved.

2. Things that prove *nothing*.

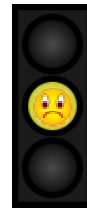
3. Things that prove you *are* saved.



Things that prove nothing.

Their **ABSENCE** is a good indicator that you do not know God...

But their **PRESENCE** does not guarantee salvation, for an **UNSAVED** person can do it!



TODAY'S TOPIC:
Doing religious activities

This might include...

Things we wear!





The atheists have their own kind of religious activities – expressions of "blind faith"!

(They just don't call it "religion.")



Religious activities are a dime a dozen!



People make up new ones every year!

Sacred Icon of the Flying Spaghetti Monster (invented by an evolutionist, R. Dawkins)



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- Most religious activities are invented by humans (or worse).



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- Few religious activities are required by God.

Do **ANY** of these **PROVE** that people are Christians ???

No!

And some might prove you aren't!

Well...

How about the **ABSENCE** of religious activities?

In the 1950's, nearly *everyone* in the USA seemed to be encouraging religious activities.

Businesses would hand out gifts with pictures of churches on them!



(Note the glass is cracked. Maybe that symbolizes something.)

Today, many people in churches
downplay religious activities.

But studies have shown that
"spirituality" WITHOUT *some type of*
religious activities tends to result in
unstable people.



The issue isn't

"Christ vs. Religion"
(though they are different).

but

"What does the Bible say?"

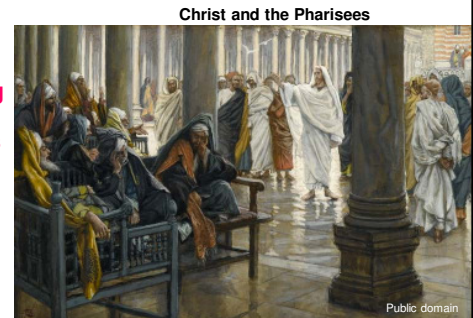
- Certain activities are required by God.
(Examples: Worship, prayer, learning God's Word,
baptism, the Lord's Supper, etc.)
- Genuine Christians will want to do what
God requires them to do!
- Unfortunately... fakes can do them too.

Remember Jesus' "friends," the
Pharisees?

A perfect
example
of:

**"... having
a form of
godliness
but
denying
its
power."**

2 Tim. 3:5a
(NIV)



Matthew 23:5a, 23b, 23:25b, 27b-28 (NIV)

Everything they do is done for men to see...

You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But
you have neglected the more important matters of the
law--justice, mercy and faithfulness.

You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they
are full of greed and self-indulgence.

You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on
the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's
bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the
outside you appear to people as righteous but on the
inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

(Read the whole chapter!)

YOUR MISSION...

- **Know the difference** between "**following Jesus**" and "**doing religion**." **They are NOT the same!**
- **Follow Jesus** and do what he says (even if it includes "religious" things).

YOUR MISSION...

- **Don't be afraid** to have a "form of godliness" – religious activity - *but make sure it reflects what is in your heart!*
- **Don't rely** on religion for salvation, because it doesn't work (as the Pharisees now know).

Credits (1)

SCRIPTURE

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