



“RELIGION OR REALITY”

Series: “A LIFE WORTH LIVING”, Part 5 of 8

Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

Text: Philippians 3:1-11

Big Idea: When symbolic religious acts replace the spiritual substance to which those symbols point, the symbol itself becomes a deadening ritual.

Definition of religion: “Any objective attended to or pursued with zeal or conscientious devotion.” American Heritage Dictionary

Malcolm Muggeridge:

“I may, I suppose, regard myself, or at least pass as being a relatively successful man. People occasionally stare at me on the street. That’s fame. I could easily earn enough to qualify for admission to the higher slopes of internal revenue. That’s success. Furnished with dollars and a little fame, all of us, if we care to, can partake in trendy diversions. That’s pleasure. And it may happen once in a while that something I said or wrote was sufficiently heeded for me to persuade myself that it represented a serious impact upon our time. That’s fulfillment.”

Philippians 3:1, “Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.”

Philippians 3:2, “Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.”

Philippians 3:3-4, “For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more.”

Philippians 3:4-6, “Though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.”

Philippians 3:7, "But whatever was to my profit (and he has just listed them) I now **consider** loss for the sake of Christ."

Philippians 3:8, "What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them **rubbish** that I may gain Christ."

Philippians 3:10, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

Malcolm Muggeridge:

"And yet I say to you, and I beg you to believe me. Multiply these tiny triumphs by a million. Add them all together, and they are nothing. In fact, they are less than nothing. A positive impediment measured against that one draught of living water Jesus Christ offers to the spiritually thirsty irrespective of who or what they are."