

JOHN 5:10-16
LEGALISM KILLS!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 5 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

We saw last time in our study of John chapter 5 that Jesus is in Jerusalem. And there in Jerusalem, by the sheep gate, was the Pool of Bethesda.

And what had happened is that over time people felt that God was healing people at this pool, so the sick, the lame, the blind, the deaf, all those who needed a healing would gather by the pool.

And as they waited there for the waters to be stirred, once this began, they would run down into this pool and the first one in would be healed.

Now when you think about this, those that could not walk, those that could not see, those who were really sick, would not have a chance. But if you had a cold or whatever, you could run down into this pool and be healed. At least that is what they believed would happen for the first person who entered the Pool of Bethesda when the waters were stirred.

Let me share with you what took place because it will lead us into what we will be looking at this morning.

In John 5:5-9 we are told, **“Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, ‘Do you want to be made well?’ The sick man answered Him, ‘Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Rise, take up your bed and walk.’ And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath.”**

This is an amazing story as this man, who was paralyzed for thirty-eight years, is now walking! Can you imagine them seeing that?

I am sure many of those people that gathered by this pool were there day in and day out, desiring to be healed and here is this man who was not healed by those waters but by Jesus, the Living Water!

But I am sorry to say there is a **“but.”**

What do I mean by that?

It is very simple. Look at the last sentence of John 5:9. John informs us that this miracle of the healing of this man took place on the Sabbath, or as John put it, **“... And that day was the Sabbath.”**

Now we might not think much about that, but to the Jew in Jesus’ day, it was a big deal and for many Jews today, it is still a big deal!

And I want to show you how crazy the commands of God had gotten, not because God made them that way, but it is the way that the Jewish religious leaders had taken it.

Let me share with you what the Lord said about the Sabbath day and then I will share with you what the Jewish religious leaders had done to that Law of God.

In Deuteronomy 5:13-14 we are told, **“Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your ox, nor your donkey, nor any of your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you.”**

That is pretty simple. Keep in mind that they worked hard in the fields for six days, but on the Sabbath they were to rest. They needed to rest, their animals needed to rest, and they needed time with their family and time to worship God!

But what was simple, when man gets a hold of it, we can make it very complicated, and it can become a heavy burden.

Now you may be thinking that I am making a big deal about nothing. I am not.

To show you how serious they were, they compiled a book called the Mishnah. And the Mishna is made up of sections that are devoted to applying the Ten Commandments to life.

Now let’s think about that for a minute. The Ten Commandments, given to us in the Bible, has maybe some 60 English words to it.

But the interpretation of these Ten Commandments was expanded to this very, very thick book!

And it was so bad that they turned what God had given the children of Israel to live by into an unbearable burden!

Let me just deal with the Sabbath day law. In the Mishna they have twenty-four chapters regarding not working on the Sabbath!

In the Talmud, which is a commentary on the Mishna, they have 156 pages that are devoted to how the Sabbath Law applied to daily life, what you could and couldn’t do.

Think about that for a minute. God has given the Sabbath day rest and there are twenty-four chapters and another 156 pages to follow so you can rest. That is not rest, as I have said!

Let me give you a few examples here to show you what I mean.

- You could not carry any object on the Sabbath that weighed more than a dried fig. That meant if you wore false teeth, you would have to take them out before the Sabbath or else you would be in violation of the Sabbath law!
- If you had a wooden leg, you would have to remove it before the Sabbath or you would be in violation of carrying a burden on the Sabbath!
- You could not buy or sell anything; you could not wash clothes or dye your clothes on the Sabbath, or you would be breaking the Sabbath day law!
- You could not light a fire, but if one was already lit, you could use it, but there were limits to that as well. And you could not extinguish a fire, or you would be breaking the Sabbath day law!
- I like this one. You couldn't look into a mirror on the Sabbath and the reason is simple. You might see a grey hair and you might be tempted to pull it out, and that would constitute work and again, you would be violating the Sabbath law!
- And, of course, you could not take a bath on the Sabbath. Not that taking a bath was wrong, but if water splashed on the floor, you would be washing the floor and that is a violation of the Sabbath law!
- And just one more. If you became ill on the Sabbath, you could get just enough treatment to keep you alive. You could not do anything that would improve your health because that was work and you would be breaking the Sabbath law.

Again, this is not what God had said, this is their interpretation of what God had said, and you can clearly see that they have added to the Law and made it a tremendous burden for the Jewish people.

Today, they can't turn the lights on in their homes on the Sabbath, so they use automatic timers to turn on their lights when the sun goes down and the Sabbath begins.

And can you imagine this going on, page after page after page. Chapter after chapter after chapter and this was just for the Sabbath day. And yet, it was supposed to be a day of rest!

And this is what we will be dealing with here in a message I have called – ***LEGALISM KILLS!***

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into five main points and they are as follows,

NO JOY – JOHN 5:10

THE EVIDENCE – JOHN 5:11

THE CONFUSION – JOHN 5:12-13

JESUS DISPELS CONFUSION – JOHN 5:14

LEGALISM DISPELS TRUTH – JOHN 5:15-16

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 5, starting in verse 10 and see what the Lord has for us this morning as we look at this topic – ***LEGALISM KILLS!***

JOHN 5

VERSE 10

First of all, when John uses the phrase, "**The Jews**" he is not speaking of the Jewish people in general. He is speaking of the Jewish religious leaders, and we need to keep that in mind as we read through the Gospel of John because if we don't, we will be confused by who is causing these problems.

Here John is speaking of these Jewish religious leaders who were very legalistic, and I will deal with that more in a minute.

And notice what is happening here.

For thirty-eight years this man has been lame. He has been paralyzed, unable to walk and now Jesus has touched this man and healed him.

And what is the first thing that these Jewish religious leaders say to this man?

It is not, “*Praise the Lord*” even though that is what they should have said.

No, they said to this man who was healed, “... ‘It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.’” John 5:10.

Are you kidding me? They are upset that this lame man, or this man who was lame, is now healed on the Sabbath and he is not only healed, but he is carrying his bed or mat that he sat upon.

I don’t know about you, but if I see something like that, I don’t care what day of the week it is – ***PRAISE THE LORD!***

But this is what legalism does. It puts God in a box and even if a miracle is done, they reject it because it does not fit in with what they believe!

In other words, they had – ***NO JOY!***

I want you to see how sad this is, if you haven’t already seen it yet.

Once again, this man, for the past thirty-eight years, has not been able to walk and now he is healed, but according to their tradition, anyone who intentionally carried anything from a public place to a private place on the Sabbath should be stoned to death.

That is worse than the infirmity that he had! They want to put him to death. But that is what legalism does, it kills life while the Spirit gives us life, abundant life!

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. It does put it into perspective for us. We are told,

What if your church's elders passed down a fiat that members could not take more than 1,999 steps on the Lord's Day without facing church discipline? One more step would be too closely akin to taking a long trip and that is a no-no on the day God set aside for worship.

What if they forbid you to carry your Bibles to church because such heavy lifting would too closely resemble work? Anything heavier than a dried fig is strictly taboo on this day, they say.

Or, what if they added a clause in the constitution and bylaws that members must not leave a radish in salt because that vegetable might become a pickle and pickle-making is work, which is, of course, forbidden on this day.

And, they added sub-paragraphs to the constitution that prescribed disciplinary action for those found guilty of other activities on the Lord's Day such as carrying a pen (lest you be tempted to write with it), carrying a needle (lest you be tempted to sew with it), helping those who are sick but with non life-threatening maladies (it can wait till Monday), looking in the mirror, spitting, removing dirt from clothes. You get the picture. . . .

Of course, the Pharisees are infamous for encrusting the moral law of God with hundreds of their own manmade laws and traditions. And we get the idea from the New Testament that trying to obey the laws as a means of salvation made them a miserable people. . . .

While few of us today seek to follow the Pharisaical model, this level of misery is alive and well among those who misunderstand the complementarity of law and gospel and seek to earn favor with God through both keeping the law and misappropriating it to extrapolate a set of personal convictions - often related to modes of dress, music, movies, etc. - that become a system of expected ethical norms to which they hold both themselves and other Christians.

As Spurgeon once said of the legalist, ***“His slogan is, ‘You cannot be spiritual unless you are uncomfortable.’”***

Indeed.

The law of God as a ground for salvation, as a means of accruing merit, leaves the worker exhausted, miserable - and lost. . . .

The law left the Pharisees (and their disciples) miserable because they viewed it as a vehicle to glory, a means of salvation. They used it unlawfully and the result was a shrunken, joyless, bitter existence.

This is the result when we misinterpret Scripture and replace the grace of God with legalism.

But rightly understood, the law of God is good, unmasking our self-righteousness and exposing our depravity. It sends us running for cover in the righteousness of Christ won at Calvary through his selfless love. It liberates us to rest from our labors at keeping the law, and leads us to green pastures of deep and overflowing joy in Christ alone. . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3zyGYGK>

Absolutely!

Now, in seeing that, in hearing that, what about us?

Can we rejoice in what God is doing in other people's lives?

Or are we like these Jewish religious leaders, who, when they saw the work of God being done, they could not rejoice because it did not fit in with what they thought was right?

We have to be careful here because it is really easy to point our finger at others and showing how legalistic they are, like these Jewish religious leaders, but maybe God is speaking to our heart and exposing areas of legalism that we need to change, we need to let go!

I remember the stories of the Jesus movement and how Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa and Pastor Chuck Smith had opened the door to minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these hippies that the church, for the most part, ignored. They did not want anything to do with them!

And as these hippies were getting saved, many churches, many denominations were coming against the work that God was doing, just as we see here in John chapter 5.

They put it down, they did not accept it because these hippies did not cut their hair or change their clothes, they came to worship God just as they were, and God was doing a miracle as thousands and thousands of hippies got saved! It truly was – ***THE JESUS MOVEMENT!***

Today, in some churches, if you are not a member of their church, you can't have communion.

Let me say this. Being a member of a church does not make you a Christian but repenting of your sins and asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life does! And thus, you can share in communion here at Calvary, even if you are not a member.

And let me be clear on this. We don't have a membership list, we do have a phone list, but that is all it is. To be a member of this church you just have to come! We are part of the body of Christ, and I try very hard not to let legalistic ideas come into the church.

Maybe that is why so many people are not full of joy, they are bound by legalism, they can't rejoice in what God is doing because it does not fit what they believe, and they are missing out.

One writer put it like this. He wrote, *“The scribes and Pharisees knew nothing of love for God or for men. They were legalistic functionaries, trapped in their own system of endless, futile traditions. Instead of fulfilling the law by loving their neighbors as themselves (Lev. 19:18), they attempted to fulfill it through loveless and lifeless traditions.”*

How true that is. And I do understand that religion, legalism wants you to think that they are helping you draw near to God, but the reality is, it does the exact opposite. It ends up being a barrier because of all the foolish rules and regulations, the traditions that they hold onto and, like I have said, they are keeping you from God!

So these Jewish religious leaders had – ***NO JOY!***

But they should have because, standing before them was this man who was lame and is now walking – ***THE EVIDENCE!***

VERSE 11

Understand that the answer this man gives to why he was carrying his bed or mat was that this man who healed him told him to pick up his bed and walk.

Maybe he was a little nervous because he knew the consequences of breaking the law, he could be stoned to death.

I don't believe that this man is saved at this point. He does not even know who Jesus is, just that this man who healed him told him to do these things.

In other words, no one else was able to bring healing to this man and yet, here is a man that the Jewish religious leaders don't even recognize, and yet, this man did and thus, He must have the authority to tell him what to do. No one else could do the things that this man did and thus, this man must be from God.

And if he is from God, then He has the authority to tell him what to do! That should just make sense.

This is not some slight of hands magic trick that was placed upon this man.

For thirty-eight years he could not walk and that means, his muscles were all atrophied. The ligaments were frozen.

And it was not that he began to be healed but this man just stood up and walked and thus, when Jesus told him to take up his bed or mat and walk, he was not going to argue with this man, with Jesus!

The evidence was overwhelming. This man did not limp. He did not hobble. He did not stagger. He just got up and walked. In other words, this was a miracle and there is no doubt about it. Like I have said, the evidence was overwhelming and because of that, this man obeyed Jesus, even though he did not know who the man who healed him was, as I have said.

And look at our next point – *CONFUSION!*

As we will see, this confusion is on the part of the Jewish religious leaders. They wanted to know who this person was who gave this man the freedom to walk and carry his bed or mat on the Sabbath. That was not kosher.

VERSES 12-13

Now this is interesting to me. Remember that this man who was lame and now healed said that the man that gave him the ability to walk again told him to take up his bed and walk.

So these Jewish religious leaders question this man once again.

What is interesting to me is that they don't want to know who healed this man who was crippled, but they want to know who gave him the authority to carry his bed on the Sabbath day!

I don't know about you, but I think I would be more interested in finding out who healed this man, right!

I mean think about it. Nothing like that has been done in Israel and now, all of a sudden, this man who was lame is walking and you have to believe that these Jewish religious leaders must have had family and friends who were sick, who needed the healing touch of Jesus.

But that is not what they want to know. And that just shows how they had allowed the Law, these religious traditions to control their lives, consume their lives and not the Lord!

Let me show you how controlling, consuming the law can be. We are told,

The story was told some years ago of a pastor who found the roads blocked one Sunday morning and was forced to skate on the river to get to church, which he did.

When he arrived the elders of the church were horrified that their preacher had skated on the Lord's day.

After the service they held a meeting where the pastor explained that it was either skate to church or not go at all.

Finally one elder asked, "*Did you enjoy it?*"

When the preacher answered, "*No,*" the board decided it was all right!

Now we laugh at that, and it is funny, but it is also true!

I remember watching a teaching from the House of Yahweh years ago. And they were very legalistic, and they were not saved. And their leader, I don't remember his name, had this scowl on his face, he was so angry, so bitter, so mad as he was teaching and yelling and coming down on those who have taken the mark of the beast by having church service on Sunday instead of on the Sabbath and because of that we will die and go to hell!

And all I could say after watching him for just a few minutes was that whatever he has, I don't want it!

There was no joy. There was no love. There was condemnation. There was anger. And I don't see Jesus telling us to live our lives like that. We are to have the joy of the Lord and that joy is seen in those who love the Lord and rest in His finished work, not their finished work!

Let me ask you this question. This lame man, this man who couldn't walk. How did he get to the Pool of Bethesda?

Obviously, he had to be carried to that pool, right?

Absolutely!

And how was he going to get home at the end of the day if he was not healed?

He would once again have to be carried home!

And what day was this?

It was the Sabbath!

Now let's think this through.

Imagine what this man might have been thinking. *“I was carried to the pool today and if I were not healed I would need to be carried home. That’s a lot more work than me carrying my little bed-mat. In healing me and sending me home, Jesus was saving work on the Sabbath, not making more work.”*

I find it interesting that they did not come against this man or those who carried him to the Pool of Bethesda for working on the Sabbath. But upon the miracle and the resultant action of this man after he was healed!

And they also came against Jesus for working on the Sabbath and this man, like I have said, for listening to this Jesus and obeying what He told him and not what the Jewish religious leaders had taught!

Jesus was a man who broke the Sabbath to these Jewish religious leaders.

But to this man who was healed, He was the man who made him well!

And in John 5:13 we are told, **“But the one who was healed did not know who it was for Jesus had withdrawn, a multitude being in that place.”**

One writer summed it up like this as he wrote, *“Jesus spoke the healing words, and then went on among the crowd, so that no particular attention was attracted to Himself, either by the sick man or others.”* (Alford)

Jesus did not want to cause trouble for this man or Himself, and thus, He just blends in with the crowd of people. But He is not done, not yet.

And here is the wonderful thing – ***JESUS DISPELS THE CONFUSION!***

Listen to what we are told as we read on.

VERSE 14

Keep in mind that this man did not know who healed him, he did not know it was Jesus.

All he knew was that there was this man who healed him and allowed him to walk again, being lame for thirty-eight years!

And notice what it says here, “**Afterward Jesus found him at the temple . . .**” John 5:14.

First of all, did you notice where this man was found?

He was found in the Temple!

What do you think he was doing at the Temple?

I believe he went there to thank and praise God!

I wonder how often in our own lives that God brings a healing to a situation, and we may thank Him, but we also just move on.

We need to take that time and praise and thank the Lord.

Listen to what Paul says in I Thessalonians 5:16-22, “**Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.**”

I think having an attitude of gratitude to the Lord will do wonders for our lives and for our witness!

Paul talks about giving thanks in everything!

How in the world can I give thanks in everything?

The only way we can is by knowing and believing that “**. . . all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.**”

The Amplified Bible puts this verse, Romans 8:28 like this, **“We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.”**

Does that mean we will always know the good that will come out of a difficult situation?

No, we must learn to trust God by faith, to rest our weight fully upon Him!

God is still on the throne, He is still in control, and nothing happens without His knowledge!

Spurgeon said, *“When joy and prayer are married their first-born child is gratitude.”*

I think he nails that one.

When we are rejoicing and in communication with God, we will have a heart of gratitude for all He has done, is doing and will do in our lives!

And here is the key to all of this; rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, giving thanks in everything to God, it is God’s will for our lives, and it is not that we have to do it, but we get to do it!

Let me sum it up like this, because, as Paul said, this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for our lives.

After each one of these exhortations – rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks – we are told to do this because it is the will of God.

The thought isn’t *“this is God’s will, so you must do it.”*

The thought is rather *“this is God’s will, so you can do it.”*

It isn’t easy to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, but we can do it because it is God’s will.

And as we live a life surrendered to God, we will not quench the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

As we live a life surrendered to God, we will be open to what God is saying to us through His Word.

As we live a life surrendered to God, we will test to see if things are of God or not and we will hold onto those things that are of God and reject those things that are not!

And as we live a life surrendered to God, we will – ***ABSTAIN FROM EVERY FORM OF EVIL!***

That is what we will see Jesus admonish this man to do!

So as we have read, we see that Jesus meets up with this man at the Temple. And when Jesus sees this man He tells him, “**See, you have been made well.**”

I think that was obvious to this man and the reason why he was there at the Temple, giving thanks to God!

I like what Morris has to say regarding this because it sheds some light on what Jesus did and what those at the pool received.

He wrote that these words, “*Employs the perfect of the verb, indicating that the cure was permanent. No doubt some of the ‘cures’ that were reported from the pool did not last very long.*”

Now let me ask you this. Why did Jesus meet up with this man again?

Because that verse goes on to say, “**Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.**”

This could be an indication why the man was lame in the first place, paralyzed for some sin early on his life. Keep in mind that he was not born this way, but at some point in his life he became lame or paralyzed.

I think this is the point that Jesus is making to this man and to us.

Yes, Jesus healed him physically but there was a spiritual issue that was even more important and needed to be dealt with.

You see, his condition of being crippled would only last a lifetime if Jesus didn't heal him, but if he did not receive Christ, that is an eternal condition in the Lake of Fire!

Thus, the later would be far worse than the former condition He was in, and Jesus tells him to sin no more, get out of that lifestyle that leads to death and is opposed to God and live what you believe.

Of this Maclaren wrote, *“The man’s eight-and-thirty years of illness had apparently been brought on by dissipation. It was a sin of the flesh, avenged in the flesh, that had given him that miserable life.”*

Yes, but now he has been set free and told not to go back to those sins.

Now keep in mind that works don't save us, it is not a salvation by works but a salvation that works. Our faith, the salvation that God has given to us needs to be manifested in our lives!

And after this encounter with Jesus, after he is saved, I believe, he goes and tells others what Jesus has done for him, even to these religious leaders who could have had him put to death or kicked out of the church or synagogue! His faith was real! And we will see that as we finish up our study this morning.

Now I need to bring this out because it is important for us to understand. Jesus did not come to break the Law, but He came to fulfill it!

Remember what we are told in Matthew 5:17 as Jesus said, **“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”**

Now some of you may be thinking, *“Hey, wait a minute. Didn’t pastor Joe just tell us that the Law can’t save us? Didn’t he say that what the Jewish religious leaders were holding onto was wrong? So we see Jesus fulfill the Law and thus, aren’t we to do the same?”*

Yes, the Law can’t save us.

Yes, what the Jewish religious leaders were holding onto was wrong.

You see, Jesus came to fulfill the Law of God and not what any man or these Jewish religious leaders made it into. And He was and is the only one who could keep the Law perfectly.

And think about it. Jesus fulfilled the Law, the only One who could, like I have said, because He was without sin. He came to fulfill what the prophets said about the coming Messiah, and He did!

So as much as the Jewish religious leaders came against Jesus, they had no grounds to stand on because He fulfilled the Law and the prophets down to the tiniest detail!

Yes, there was the Moral Law or the Ten Commandments.

There was the Judicial Law or the laws that governed the court system, this is how judgments were made.

And there was the Ceremonial Law which dealt with the worship of God.

And as much as the Jewish religious leaders came against Jesus for breaking them, as I have said, He broke none of them but fulfilled them all!

Let me say this. There are so many people out there that are confused, and they should not be.

But they are listening to people that are telling them that to get to heaven you have to do this and you can’t do that. And if your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds, you will make it in!

By the deeds of the Law or by doing good deeds, no flesh will be justified! (Romans 3:20)

But the false teachers, the false prophets, the false religions are waving people down the broad path, and many are following their directions and they are headed for an eternity apart from Jesus!

How can we dispel confusion?

By looking to Jesus, by digging into His Word and all that confusion that the world and the false church is throwing at you will be cleared up because God's Word is – **TRUTH!**

But, like Harry Truman said, ***“If you can't convince them, confuse them.”***

And I think that is what we are seeing at a level never seen before. So much information and whatever you want to believe in regard to faith, you can find it, but that does not make it true.

The Devil is very good at this and many fall prey to his schemes. The Devil does not care if you are religious, he does not care what you believe as long as you don't believe in the truth and that is what we see happening today, as I have said.

You may have heard the story of this ***“do it yourself”*** catalog firm that received the following letter from one of its customers:

“I built a birdhouse according to your stupid plans, and not only is it much too big, it keeps blowing out of the tree. Signed, Unhappy.”

The firm replied:

“Dear Unhappy, We're sorry about the mix-up. We accidentally sent you a sailboat blueprint. But if you think you are unhappy, you should read the letter from the guy who came in last in the yacht club regatta.”

Now we laugh at that but so many today are so confused about what is truth and what is not truth, and they don't know what kind of life they are building!

But for us as Christians, we not only have the Word of God, the Bible that has the truths of God in it, but we also have the Holy Spirit who will teach us the things of God.

There is no reason for us to be taken in by the lies that are out there.

The Law is important because it shows us our sin and how far short we come to entering into heaven by our own merits.

In a sense it is the Law that brings us to Jesus, it brings us to our Savior because what we could not do, be good enough to enter into heaven, He has paid the price for our sin and has given to us His righteousness so that we can stand before a holy God!

And once we come to that saving faith, the Lord tells us, as He told this man, *sin no more!*

Don't go back to those things that had you in bondage because they will take you captive once again.

Keep your eyes upon Me, Jesus is saying, and He will lead us where we need to go and what we need to do.

Think about this for a minute. If we can't trust the Bible, if we can't trust what God has said in His Word, if God can lie, then who in the world can we trust?

And the answer is simple. If we can't trust God, then we can't trust anyone!

Now some may like to argue that point. They may say . . .

You can trust science, because science and scientists don't lie!

The problem with that line of reasoning is that they have, and they will lie because even scientists will try to promote their cause, their beliefs and we see that portrayed with evolution.

They will tell you about the evolutionary tree with all the transitional forms on it, but they won't tell you that they have never found one transitional creature that is an intermediary between let's say a dinosaur and a bird, which they believe a dinosaur turned into a bird! But all they have are creatures that are fully formed, no intermediary fossils!

What about parents, they would never lie to you, right?

Wrong! As much as we try to do our best, I am sure we all have lied to our children or told them half-truths which is really just a half of a lie! I am sure many of us, before we were saved, told our children about Santa Claus, and I hate to blow it for anyone, but that is just a story!

What about politicians, everything they tell us is truth, right?

Okay, a little sarcasm there!

Of course they lie, they tell you what you want to hear, they tell you things to manipulate you to their side!

And I can go on, but you get the point. Man cannot be trusted because man will and does lie.

But God does not lie, it is not in His nature and if He did lie then there would be darkness in God and the Bible tells us that there is no darkness in God!

Let me share this with you and you will see that we can trust the Word of God, The Bible!

We are told,

The question of biblical authority is a burning one, so much so that to some theologians and preachers it is too hot to handle. Some writers, reportedly of high intellectual and spiritual standing, look upon the Bible as a book which, to them, is obviously marked by inconsistency, historical inaccuracy and self-contradiction. They see the Bible as containing but not as being the Word of God.

While they are telling us that the Bible contains errors, incorrect dates and fictitious authorships, they claim that in this Book one may find the Word of God. . . .

While this book is being written wholly from a preacher's point of view, it is set forth in non-academic, non-professional, and non-technical terms. It is addressed to both pulpit and pew. I am fully persuaded that every Christian should study the Bible with the view to gaining true knowledge about God. He must read and study diligently this Grand Old Book. This is not optional but obligatory.

We need this incomparable and indispensable Book for a right understanding of the origin of the universe and man, the great redemptive work of God culminating in the Advent, Atonement, Ascension, and Second Advent of His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We need the Bible to teach us how to live right and to prepare for death and eternity. We need this Book to tell us of future events, how this age will end, the final overthrow of evil and destructive powers, and the coming Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

The Bible is our one standard text-book, our safe and sane rule of faith and practice, our final court of appeal. . . . we must obey the command which, though addressed first to Timothy, applies to every Christian: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

We must study this Book of all books because Christianity is again at the crossroads, and we Christians are compelled to choose the road upon which we will travel. It will not be an easy matter for some to make the right choice. The road map, the signposts and the guide books have been tampered with to intentionally lead us astray. But if the earnest seeker for truth will give himself to a careful reading and study of the Bible, he will not travel the wrong road nor come to the wrong destination.

. . . Too long the Bible has been misrepresented. Millions of young people have been brainwashed by infidels and atheists who have never taken the time to attempt to understand the Bible. It is criticized and condemned by those who know the least about it.

A professor in a state university apologized to his students for the Bible, as he said, “We all admit there are scientific errors in the Bible. However, we can excuse these errors on the ground that the Bible was not intended to be, nor is it, a textbook on science, so let us not look for scientific accuracy in such a book.”

I react strongly against the blasphemous statement that “there are scientific errors in the Bible.” If the Bible is not scientifically accurate, then it cannot be, to me at least, the Word of God. . . .

The late James Orr, a distinguished Bible scholar, reportedly predicted at the turn of the century that the theological battle of the twenty-first century will be fought around the fortress of the worth and authority of Holy Scripture.

We are in the thick of that battle today. Is the Bible the Word of God or is it the work of man? For myself I cannot see how the Bible can possibly be the product of man's efforts. If the Bible is confined to human thought, then why is there only one such book? Whatever man has produced in the past he has reproduced with improvements. Many attempts have been made to paraphrase and revise the Bible, but no man has ever attempted to write a Bible of his own.

When John Wycliffe presented the Scriptures in the vernacular of the people in England, the Roman Catholic Church marked him out for death. That saintly scholar of Baliol College, Oxford, escaped the Devil's attempt to slay him.

He died in 1384, but the Roman Church was so infuriated over Wycliffe's publishing the Scriptures in English that in 1415 she dug up his bones, burned the remains with fire, and threw the ashes upon a dunghill.

And then in 1816 Pope Pius VII issued a papal bull declaring every organization and institution that distributed the Scriptures "a fiendish instrument for the undermining of the foundations of religion."

[Why did they do this? Because the truth will set you free, not just from the false teaching within the Roman Catholic Church, but every false teaching no matter where it is coming from. That is why there is this attack on the Bible, on the truth of God!]

And yet the Bible stands, this impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture. Men fling themselves against it in all their fury, but instead of them breaking the Book, the Book crushes them.

Bibles have been burned and torn to pieces, but God's Holy Word remains triumphant.

In our world of darkness and despair the Bible shines forth as the scintillating [shinning] light to lead men aright. The Bible is the only light for man's pathway (Psalm 119:105); the one Light shining in a dark place (II Peter 1:19).

The Bible is the greatest luminary on the earth to bring men to God. It is the one beacon of hope in the night of men's sin. However dark the shadows of sin and sorrow might become, the Light will always be there for those who will follow.

- <https://bit.ly/3mObhWf>

Amen to that!

Please keep in mind that the Bible is one of the most studied books in the world and yet, as many try to disprove the Bible, they come to saving faith by studying it and seeing that it is – ***TRUTH!***

Make no mistake about it – ***JESUS DISPELS CONFUSION!***

But, as we read on, we will see that – ***LEGALISM DISPELS TRUTH!***

VERSES 15-16

Here we see that – ***LEGALISM DISPELS TRUTH!***

We have seen that this lame man came to saving faith, he goes and tells others what Jesus has done for him.

Now we also read here that he told the Jews or the Jewish religious leaders about Jesus.

Now some feel that he turned Jesus in to these Jewish religious leaders. I don't see that, not at all.

What was he doing then giving them this information?

He was witnessing to them of what Jesus had done in his life and thus, he was speaking forth the truth that is found in Jesus!

And how did they respond to this truth that this man gave them?

Now before you answer that, think about what or who was standing before them!

This lame man who is now walking. They could never do anything like that but here is this man that was healed by Jesus and now they are being witnessed to by this lame man, and their response?

“For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.” John 5:16.

They let their beliefs get in the way of truth and they will try to persecute and kill Jesus, which this persecution will continue on until they finally crucify Him.

First they wanted to kill this man for carrying his bed on the Sabbath. And now they want to kill Jesus because He had done these things on the Sabbath.

Remember what I called this message – ***LEGALISM KILLS!*** And that is exactly what we see here!

We have to understand that the rules and regulations that they came up with for the Sabbath day were not of God. It was their own rules, their own traditions and they stuck to them no matter how foolish they were.

Let me give you an example of the foolishness of their rules.

In Deuteronomy 23:12-14 God tells Israel to practice good sanitation when their armies were at camp. In other words, put your outhouses outside the camp of Israel! That was a good practice.

But then the rabbis came along and applied that same principle to Jerusalem, which they regarded as ***“the camp of the Lord.”***

Now, take that Law and add to it the Sabbath travel restrictions and now you had a prohibition against going to the bathroom on the Sabbath!

Folk's, that is not rest, at least not for me!

And the tragedy of all of this is that it kept them from saving faith and that is what legalism will do.

Let me share this with you to show you that what you embrace, what you follow, what you take into your life, you will become.

There is this story of Hans the tailor.

And he was well known and because of his reputation an influential businessperson who was visiting the city ordered a tailor-made suit.

When he came back to pick the suit up, to his dismay, he found that one sleeve was twisted that way and the other this way. One shoulder kind of bulged out and the other caved in.

But this man put the suit on. Somehow he managed to make his body fit into it.

As he got on the bus to return home there was a passenger who noticed this man and his odd appearance. And he turned to the man with this suit on and asked him this question, "***Did Hans the tailor make you that suit?***"

The man said, "***Yes.***"

And the man replied back, "***That is amazing! I knew that Hans was a good tailor, but I can see now that he is a great tailor. I had no idea he could make a suit fit so perfectly on someone as deformed as you!***"

You see, you can put on the suit of legalism or whatever you want, and your appearance will reflect that.

Or you can put on the righteousness of Christ, you can surrender your life to Him and be transformed by Him, from the inside out. He will take care of the heart issues and that will then be manifested in what you do and what you say!

And if you want to live a life of legalism, there will be no joy, not the joy of the Lord in your life.

You see, the truths of God found in the Word of God you have ignored or distorted and thus, you have allowed – ***LEGALISM TO DISPEL THE TRUTH!***

Live your life in the grace of God. Let God mold and shape you into the man or woman He wants you to be and allow – ***JESUS TO DISPEL THE CONFUSION*** that is out there and trying to take you captive!

Remember, the Law kills but the Spirit gives us life!

And I will close with these words from Jesus who prayed, **“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your Word is truth.”** John 17:17.