

Religion

VS.

The Gospel

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

EDWARD PAZ

WHY THIS RESOURCE?

For 20 years, my Christianity was more of a **burden** to me than it was a blessing. Much of my involvement in and connection to my faith was motivated by **guilt** and **obligation**.

I had belief, but I **lacked joy**.

Thankfully, in 2010, God started opening my eyes to the many, often times, subtle distinctions between a “religion-driven” Christianity and a “gospel-motivated” Christianity. I began to **unlearn** what I had, for so long, misunderstood and misapplied.

Understanding these distinctions **re-invigorated my faith** and were a huge motivation behind why I became a pastor and started a church. As the uniquenesses of the gospel became more clear, for the first time in my life, I was convinced that Christianity truly did have a message of **good news!**

With that in mind, in the following pages, I have done my best to **distill 17 distinctions** down to as few words as possible so you can evaluate for yourself what type of Christianity you have come to understand and embrace.

Prayerfully, as you consider these distinctions they can act as a catalyst for a more fulfilling, life-giving faith—a faith that not only brings you more joy, but a faith that, ultimately, brings God more glory!

EDWARD PAZ
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PART ONE

Gospel

DECLARATIONS

DISTINCTION #1

Religion says...

SAVE YOURSELF.

The Gospel says...

JESUS SAVES.

“

THE SAYING IS TRUSTWORTHY AND
DESERVING OF FULL ACCEPTANCE,
THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE
WORLD TO **SAVE SINNERS.**

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

DISTINCTION #2

Religion says...

YOU MUST.

The Gospel says...

JESUS DID.

“

FOR AS BY THE ONE MAN'S DIS-
OBEDIENCE THE MANY WERE MADE
SINNERS, SO BY THE **ONE MAN'S**
OBEDIENCE THE MANY WILL BE
MADE RIGHTEOUS.

ROMANS 5:19

DISTINCTION #3

Religion says...

MUST ATTAIN.

The Gospel says...

JESUS ATONED.

“

IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE
HAVE LOVED GOD BUT THAT HE
LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE
THE **PROPITIATION** FOR OUR SINS.

1 JOHN 4:10

DISTINCTION #4

Religion says...

DO.

The Gospel says...

DONE.

“

IT IS FINISHED.

JOHN 19:30

DISTINCTION #5

Religion says...

IMPROVE.

The Gospel says...

APPROVED.

“

FOR WE HOLD THAT ONE IS
JUSTIFIED BY FAITH **APART**
FROM WORKS OF THE LAW.

ROMANS 3:28

DISTINCTION #6

Religion says...

CHOOSE.

The Gospel says...

CHOSEN.

“

YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME,
BUT I CHOSE YOU.

JOHN 15:16

DISTINCTION #7

Religion says...

GUILTY.

The Gospel says...

GUILTLESS.

“

THERE IS THEREFORE NOW **NO**
CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO
ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.

ROMANS 8:1

DISTINCTION #8

Religion says...

LOVE FIRST.

The Gospel says...

FIRST LOVED.

“

WE LOVE BECAUSE
HE **FIRST LOVED** US.

1 JOHN 4:19

DISTINCTION #9

Religion says...

BE CLEAN.

The Gospel says...

CLEANSSED.

“

BUT IF WE WALK IN THE LIGHT, AS
HE IS IN THE LIGHT, WE HAVE
FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER,
AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS HIS SON
CLEANSSES US FROM ALL SIN.

1 JOHN 1:7

PART TWO

Gospel

REVELATIONS

DISTINCTION #10

Religion says...

RESTITUTION.

The Gospel says...

SUBSTITUTION.

“

FOR CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED ONCE
FOR SINS, **THE RIGHTEOUS FOR THE
UNRIGHTEOUS**, THAT HE MIGHT
BRING US TO GOD.

1 PETER 3:18

DISTINCTION #11

Religion says...

MERIT.

The Gospel says...

MERCY.

“

HE SAVED US, NOT BECAUSE OF
WORKS DONE BY US IN
RIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT ACCORDING
TO HIS OWN **MERCY.**

TITUS 3:5

DISTINCTION #12

Religion says...

GRIT.

The Gospel says...

GRACE.

“

SO TOO AT THE PRESENT TIME
THERE IS A REMNANT, **CHOSEN BY
GRACE**. BUT IF IT IS BY GRACE, IT
IS NO LONGER ON THE BASIS OF
WORKS; OTHERWISE GRACE WOULD
NO LONGER BE GRACE.

ROMANS 11:5-6

PART THREE

Gospel

APPLICATIONS

DISTINCTION #13

Religion says...

WORK.

The Gospel says...

REST.

“

COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND
ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL
GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE
UPON YOU, AND LEARN FROM ME,
FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN
HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST
FOR YOUR SOULS.

MATTHEW 11:28-29

DISTINCTION #14

Religion says...

BEHAVE.

The Gospel says...

BELIEVE.

“

NO ONE IS JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD
BY THE LAW, FOR 'THE RIGHTEOUS
SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.'

GALATIANS 3:11

DISTINCTION #15

Religion says...

ACHIEVE.

The Gospel says...

RECEIVE.

“

FOR BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN
SAVED THROUGH FAITH.
AND THIS IS NOT YOUR OWN
DOING: IT IS THE **GIFT OF GOD**,
NOT A RESULT OF WORKS,
SO THAT NO ONE MAY BOAST.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

DISTINCTION #16

Religion says...

TRY.

The Gospel says...

TRUST.

“

AND TO THE ONE WHO DOES NOT
WORK BUT **BELIEVES** IN HIM WHO
JUSTIFIES THE UNGODLY, HIS FAITH
IS COUNTED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ROMANS 4:5

DISTINCTION #17

Religion says...

BE STRONG.

The Gospel says...

BOAST IN WEAKNESS.

“

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN
WEAKNESS.” THEREFORE, I WILL
BOAST ALL THE MORE GLADLY OF MY
WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER
OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.

— **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10** —

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