

RELIGIOUS ENTRENCHMENT

JOHN 5:31-47

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: The Pharisees and the religious leaders were stuck in their religiosity. To them the way to God was their rule keeping and an ungodly observance of Sabbath days.

MISSES GOD'S APPLICATION of God's word in your life. When Jesus is received as Lord and Savior, God's word becomes living and active, and the Holy Spirit uses it to help you know Jesus and to become like Him. (John 5:38, 39, fn 5:39, 40, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13, James 1:22-25, fn 1:22-25, Hebrews 4:12, fn 4:12, II Timothy 3:16, 17, fn 3:17) *How has God's Word delivered you from religious entrenchment?*

MISSES A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS by letting your life be governed by your own desire to seek and worship God on your terms and in your own strength. Religious entrenchment is avoided as you daily, in humility, seek Jesus' presence. As you exercise your faith in doing this, the Holy Spirit gives you inexpressible and glorious joy. (John 5:39, 40, Acts 17:11, fn 17:11, John 14:15-21, fn 14:17ff, fn 14:18, Hebrews 8:10-12, fn 8:8-12, fn 8:10, 11, II Corinthians 5:7, 17, fn 5:17, I Peter 1:8, 9, fn 1:8, 9) *What needs to be done for you to meet with Jesus daily, and how could you do this?*

MISSES GOD'S APPROVAL. To seek man's approval instead of God's approval is idol worship. You honor Jesus when you praise Him and seek His approval in all you do. (John 5:41-44, fn 5:41, Galatians 1:10, fn 1:10, John 12:42, 43, fn 12:42, 43, Philippians 3:7-14, fn 3:12-14) *How does praising God and seeking His approval end religious entrenchment?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?