

Real Religion!

Two preachers were fishing from the side of the road. They thoughtfully made a sign saying, "The End is Near! Turn yourself around now before it's too late!" and showed it to each passing car.

One driver that drove by didn't appreciate the sign and shouted at them: "Leave us alone, you religious nuts!"

All of a sudden they heard a big splash. They looked at each other and one preacher said to the other, "You think we should just put up a sign that says 'Bridge Out' instead?"

Many people think religion is simply a bunch of rules to forbid anyone from having any pleasure in life. Maybe you've heard someone say in reference to a diet, "If it tastes good, spit it out." Similarly, others have said in reference to religion, "If you enjoy it, don't do it!"

Certainly there are things that are forbidden in the Christian life, but consider this: if temptation were not enjoyable, we would have no desire to sin! If drinking tasted bad to everyone, made everyone feel bad, provided no health benefit to anyone, who would be tempted to drink it? If immorality provided no pleasure and only hurt people, who would be tempted by it? If lying provided no benefit, if foul language provided only negative reactions, or if pride only caused problems, fewer people would be involved!

True religion is not simply a list of things you can't do! True religion benefits those involved and everyone around them! James said it like this:

James 1:26-27 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

Love to all,
Andy