

Band Aid Religion

2 Timothy 3:2-5

²For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

Form: Gk. *Morphosis*: the mere form, semblance; that which stands in as a representation of another thing

Godliness is a meta-morphosis: an ascent into something greater; a change into a more glorious form!

This kind of godliness is a “cata-morphosis” - a distorted form that mocks the glory of the one it claims to represent.

True godliness is a demonstration of God’s power in Christ to give new life to dead men!

Taking up a religious exterior will never touch the deep places of the heart in the way that only Jesus can!

Religion: any belief / set of practices that I trust in to bring about life-change or to give me hope of eternal life.

Where did such a dark deception come from?

Genesis 3:6-7

⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

This is the beginning of religion: man, in his frantic attempt to hide his shame and sin, makes a covering for himself.

Man made a poor choice: fig leaves contain a toxin belonging to a class called “Furocoumarins”.

The toxin enters the nucleus of your skin cells and form a bond with the DNA, causing the cells to die. As a result, the skin is unable to protect itself from sunlight

This is the essence of religion: it brings irritation rather than comfort, it bonds with my DNA and makes me a false person, and it makes me unable to endure the light of God’s presence.

The more I hide myself and cover my sin, the less I can endure the people of light, or the light of Christ.

Genesis 3:21

²¹The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

The antidote to sin and shame would be a covering, but a covering that God would provide, and with the shedding of blood.

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” Having said this, He breathed His last.

Luke 24:36-38

³⁶ While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and *said to them, "Peace be to you." ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. ³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Because of the resurrection of Jesus, I can have His peace ruling in my heart, overcoming troubling thoughts and doubt!

Luke 24:44-52

⁴⁴ Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, He opens my mind to understand His Word, and grants forgiveness and repentance to all who believe!

⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, I can receive the Holy Spirit and power!

⁵⁰ And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple praising God.

Because I am covered by the death and resurrection of Jesus, I can lead a new life of joy, and worship God forever!