

Argyle LifeGroup Study Guide, Acts, part 11, 08-22-2021

1. Read Acts 4:1-12

2. Here in Acts chapter 4, we see the official beginning of the attack against the church and the battle has continued for 2,000 years.

The fight is _____ vs. Biblical Christianity. Religion vs. Relationship.

3. There are very important _____ between Biblical Christianity and other belief systems that are considered religion.

4. Religion is self-centered. It's all about us. That's why we like it. Any acceptance by the higher power is based on the _____ things we do.

5. Biblical Christianity is a relationship that God establishes with us.

The relationship is not based on the good things we do. In fact, it is impossible for us to ever meet God's standard of holiness on our own. The relationship is based on what we could never do for ourselves. The relationship is based on what Jesus has already done at the cross.

6. Religion says, "Be good. Work hard. Do your best and then maybe God will quit being mad at you. He might even let you into heaven someday if you're good enough."

That's the kind of religious system that so strongly opposed the teaching of Jesus Christ. The religious leaders hated Jesus because He exposed their hypocrisy.

7. Read Acts 4:8. Wasn't Peter already filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost? Yes. We receive the Holy Spirit once and for all when we become a Christian. But we are filled with the Holy Spirit many times. To be filled means to be empowered. God is with us forever. The Holy Spirit lives in our heart and is always with us. He supernaturally empowers us to do the work of God and to speak boldly in His name.

8. Read Acts 4:11. The cornerstone was used in construction of a building. It was the most important stone in the building project. That's why Jesus is described as the cornerstone of the church. The church is built on Jesus. Not on rules. Not on tradition. But on the very person of Jesus Christ. It's a relationship. Not religion. Jesus is our foundation.

The stone that the religious leaders threw away, has become the cornerstone.

9. Read Acts 4:12. Christianity is not about joining a religion. Christianity is about becoming part of God's family.