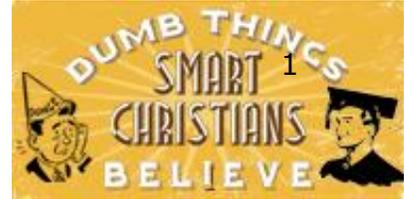


Religion Saves
John 4.7-21, Galatians 3.1-11
April 7, 2013
Message Notes



Smart people can believe really silly stuff

1. Our First Dumb Thing: Religion Saves

Here's how religion works:

In religion, we try to become our own savior!

Galatians 3.1-10

2. Our First *Not* Dumb Thing: The Gospel of Jesus Saves

1 John 4

Galatians 3.1-10

Here's how the Gospel works:

3. Some of the Joys of the Gospel of Jesus:

The Gospel and Security

The Gospel and Repentance

The Gospel and Living Gracefully

The Gospel and Worship

Religion Saves

1 John 4.7-21 Galatians 3.1-11

Week of April 7, 2013

Growth Group Notes



1. Share about a time you fooled someone, or you were pranked. Talk about why it's easy even for smart people to believe dumb things.

2. Religion Saves (and other dumb things!)
 - a. Clarify in your mind, and with the group, the major differences between religion and the gospel of Jesus.

 - b. What are some of the "behaviors" we find ourselves falling back into in order to try to earn or win God's love?

 - c. What are some of the damnable things about religion? Read Galatians 3.10 and James 2.10-11.

3. The Gospel is about God's loving grace--about what He has done, and what He does inside us. He loves us apart from our behavior, in fact, in spite of our behavior! He puts His Spirit inside us to change our desires and empower us to respond to His love. How does the Gospel change how you live toward your family, toward those who anger you, toward neighbors? Consider Titus 2.11-15.

4. How can you be more aware this week of your tendency to revert back to attempting to secure God's love by your own efforts? What are a couple ideas to help you live in the Gospel this week when you're tempted to try to earn God's love by your better behavior?