

Religion vs. The Gospel

I obey, then I'm accepted.

Religion

I'm accepted, so I obey.

Gospel

Do? or **Done?**

What motivates us to seek God?

Fear, guilt, insecurity, work,
burden

Religion

Joy, relationship, love

Gospel

Why do we obey?

If I do , God will do..... for me.

Religion: get stuff

If I do , I will see more of
God.

Gospel: get God

How do we handle hard, painful times?

Angry at God (didn't come through)
Angry at ourselves (didn't measure up)
God is punishing me. **Religion**

I struggle, but all my punishment fell on Jesus.
God allows hard times for training,
but His Fatherly love is present in my

How do we deal with criticism?

Devastated.

Think I am a good person & always right.

Need my critics' approval. **Religion**

Free from needing others' approval.

My identity is in Jesus, not in my activity.

Gospel

Why do we pray?

95% asking God for things.

Heats up in time of need.

To control my life & make it better. **Religion**

Long stretches of praise & adoration

Main purpose is connection with Living God.

Gospel

How do we see ourselves?

I swing from proud confidence to shame & insecurity.

Life is a roller coaster. **Religion**

My value is not based on good works or achievement. “I am so bad He had to die for me, yet so loved He was glad to die for me.”

How do we define ourselves?

My identity is based on how hard I work
or

how good I am.

Feel superior to others. **Religion**

My identity is Jesus, who died for my lack
of hard work or poor moral choices.

Only by grace I am what I am. **Gospel**

How do we live our lives?

Look to something for hope & significance:

my talents, good works, spiritual discipline, my kids, spouse, my status.

Religion

I have many good things, yet none are the best for me. There is a limit to how much anxiety, bitterness, and

What, then, is our True Hope?

Jesus.
Only Jesus.