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*“That the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of glory,
may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge
of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened”*

- Ephesians 1:17-18a

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The 'Foolish' Effect of Religion

“O foolish Galatians! ...Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?” - Galatians 3:1&3

I have tried to understand the intensity of Paul’s anger in the above scripture and indeed now have. Not only do I understand the depth of his anger, I also feel the burden of that anger today – in fact it is my calling, the basis of my work in the ministry. Why would someone, anyone, who has seen the extent of the glory available in God through Christ by faith and who in fact has actually begun in that path of “being led by the Spirit”; how can such a one as this still turn around, knowingly or unknowingly to choose to trivialise the same, while keeping with the status quo, sticking with the familiar path of religious hypocrisy and a complete blind commitment to the traditions of men, who in focusing on building their ‘churches’, have increasingly let go of the vision; that is, the building of the church of Christ Jesus [Matthew 16:18!](#)

But the truth is that not everyone can be accused of blind commitment to the traditions of men. Bible says that “my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” [Hosea 4:6](#). For that reason, now hear that you may know the depth of glory available in God through Christ to every believer who will genuinely commit to living above religion and traditions of men and pursue to enter practically into being led by the Spirit of God [Romans 8:14](#)

When I speak of religion, I am not at all referring to religions like Islam and today’s Judaism etc. No! I have no concerns whatsoever with these. Coming out from Islam myself, I have known without a doubt that they do not and infact can have nothing to do with the person of God as unveiled in the Bible, as revealed in Christ Jesus and as being confirmed by the resident presence of the Holy Spirit in all who have truly believed in Christ Jesus. My concern as always, is for the person who claims to have known the true God in this way and is yet not progressing through the way of the Spirit but rather commits to a combined religious effort to continually please God – a thing which indeed has becoming obsolete [Hebrews 8:13](#) and is only based on traditions of men (no matter how logical such traditions may appear to be), lacking in real spiritual value [Colossians 2:20-22](#).

The only religion that has ever proceeded from God was the Old Testament Judaism based on the LAW OF MOSES, which was intended ONLY to ensure the transition to the full restoration of the fallen man back to God as carried out in the new covenant in Christ [Galatians 3:19](#). This means that the unveiling of Christ and the salvation in Him, make obsolete whatever purpose that religion served. It does not make its role insignificant; it only makes it no longer relevant as a way

to relate with the almighty God. This is why Bible says, **Religion** that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world [James 1:27](#). But before you say, "that's it! God accepts religion", the word ACCEPT as used here carries a completely different meaning from what you are probably thinking right now! In the book of Acts, [Cornelius'](#) religion was **accepted** by God, but ONLY has a reason for him to be shown (in special circumstances) the new way of faith in Christ Jesus. So, indeed, religion CANNOT be accepted today as a basis for eternal life (or knowing God).

Having said this, religion as a principle relating to a way of life developed from traditions of men through regularly observed routines and practices intended to reflect or increase spirituality, has found increased relevance in the lives of many people who have professed Christ as with the Galatians above. Religion in this respect as is becoming increasingly prevalent in the Church worldwide is only but an activity of the flesh that infact leaves no room for true spiritual maturity. Indeed, as Paul wondered, *"If you died with Christ ... why... do you subject yourselves to regulations ... according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh"* [Colossians 2:20-23](#).

To attain true spiritual maturity, a believer in Christ Jesus must leave, completely, any action that is akin to 'observing to keep the law' (the law being any established action routinely applied with the aim of being accepted by God or increasing spirituality) and rather, pursue to 'be led by the Spirit', by faith, which is the ONLY path to true spiritual maturity even as Paul says, "So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature". To have this sure path to spiritual perfection and yet pursue to achieve this perfection in the strength of the flesh – the strength of keeping with the traditions of men – observing to keep laws, is indeed tantamount to absolute foolishness!