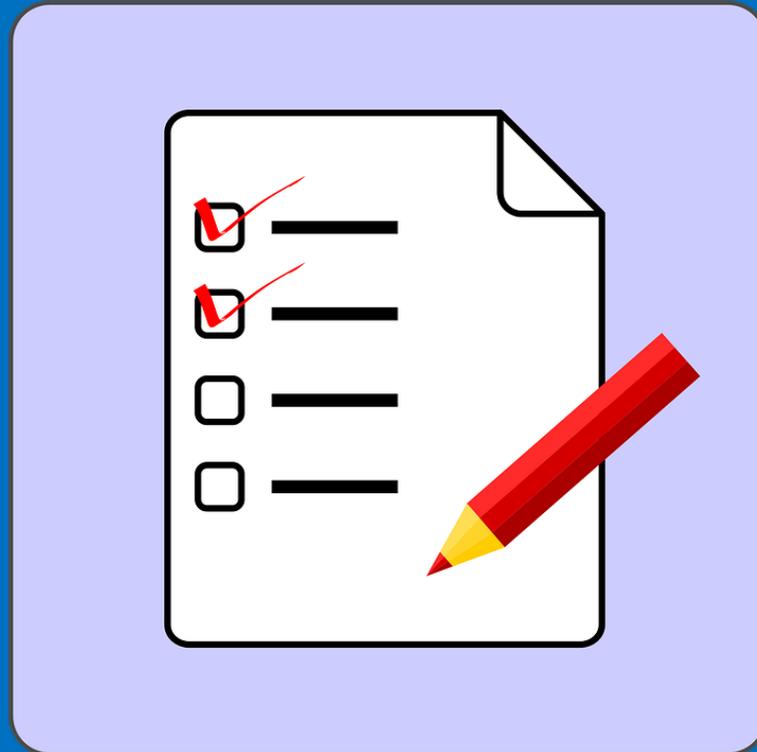


Check-Box Religion!

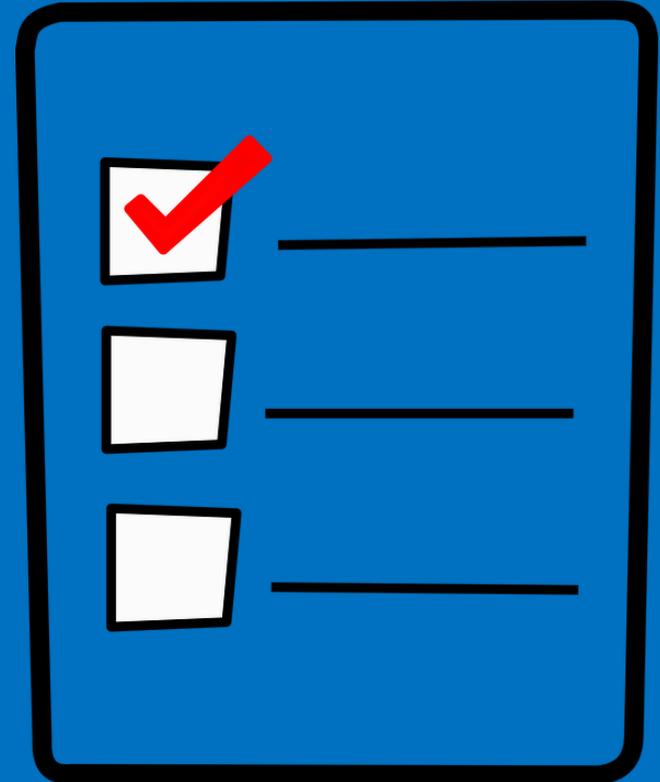
John 5:39-47 (Topical Message)



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John 5:39-40 (NASB)

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

What is this Law?

The Law was God's instructions to the Nation Israel concerning moral, social, and spiritual behaviors. The Law includes the 10 commandments and 613 commandments called (Mitzvot's – do's & don'ts). There are 248 Do's, and 365 Don'ts. ***The Law is a performance-based system with God.*** Blessings come with obedience to the law, and difficult trials come with disobedience to the law. If you think about it, if you track the history of Israel in the Old Testament. It is a history of times of obedience, and times of disobedience (Ups & Downs).

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (NASB)

¹ "Now it shall be, if you diligently obey the LORD your God, being careful to do all His commandments which I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God:

*The whole purpose of the Law was to set a moral standard that is humanly impossible to achieve. It's God's holy standard. The Law was given to show man his need by faith to be made right (**Righteous**) with God. Man could never be made right with God by keeping the Law, or by working his way towards God. Being made right with God is never by keeping the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ.*

Spiritually dead men "In Adam" are still under the Law. Spiritually alive men "In Christ" are under Grace.

In the New Covenant of Grace, by faith in Jesus Christ (death, burial, resurrection for the forgiveness of sins) - the Holy Spirit & Christ come to permanently live inside men. Big change from the Old Covenant – There the Holy Spirit came upon, but never indwelt. In addition, Christ was not united to man, like He is in the New Covenant of Grace.

When Jesus died on the cross and said “It is Finished” He ushered in the “New Covenant of Grace” and a way for man to have Eternal Life “His Life” because He is in union with Man. That way is by faith in Him.

John 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

John 5:39-40 (NASB)

³⁹ "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Many are searching the scriptures, looking for what boxes they need to check to have eternal life. They are engaged in "Check the Box Religion". In their minds, they think if they search the scriptures, and check all the boxes (Law), they will have eternal life.

Brother's & Sisters – That describes our Jewish friends, that describes our Gentile friends, and sadly that describes some of our Christian friends. Most of us are engage in "Check-Box Religion" I just need to "Check the Boxes", and I will have eternal life, and be made right or maintain my rightness with God. What a deception that has been propagated by the Evil One since the beginning of time. He wants man to look everywhere else in search of life, never going to the only source, which is Jesus Christ.

Brothers' & Sisters – There is a problem in the church today. Checking the boxes, has been substituted for Christ as Life.

⁴⁰ and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

Most of us have this backwards. We go to the scriptures to learn and gain knowledge to live our lives (Jews, Gentiles, Christians) looking for a rule, idea, doctrine or process. That make sense, right?

But Jesus tells us that the scriptures (All Scripture) testify about Him. We are unwilling to come to Him to have life. We are attempting box checking for Life, which is only available from Him.

So key, so important, so critical, so misunderstood, so true!

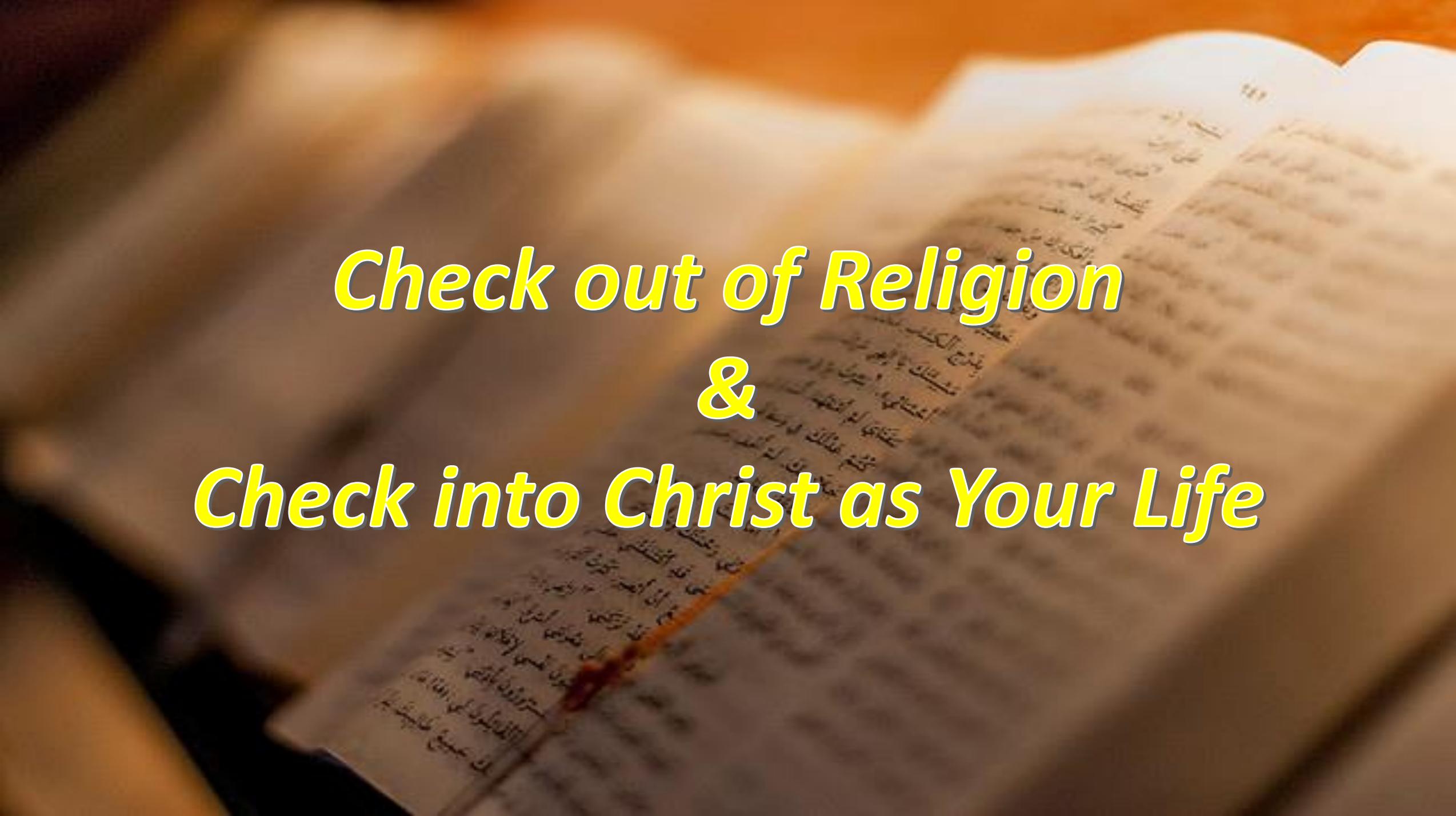
They only way to have life is to come to Jesus Christ, and be infused with His Life. His life being in you is all you need. He is your life, and your source of Life, and the initiator and perfecter of your life.

Hope in Doing instead of Being

⁴⁵ "Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; the one who accuses you is Moses, in whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. ⁴⁷ "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

Jesus finishes the conversation with this. Your Hope is in Moses (Box Checking Law), and he will accuse you of not (Box Checking). Moses writings point to Me, you believe Moses, so believe Me.

I have come to give you life, not Moses. I have come to free you from "Box Checking Religion".

An open book with Arabic text, likely a Quran, is shown in a close-up, slightly blurred view. The pages are filled with dense Arabic script. A yellow text overlay is centered on the image, reading:

*Check out of Religion
&
Check into Christ as Your Life*