


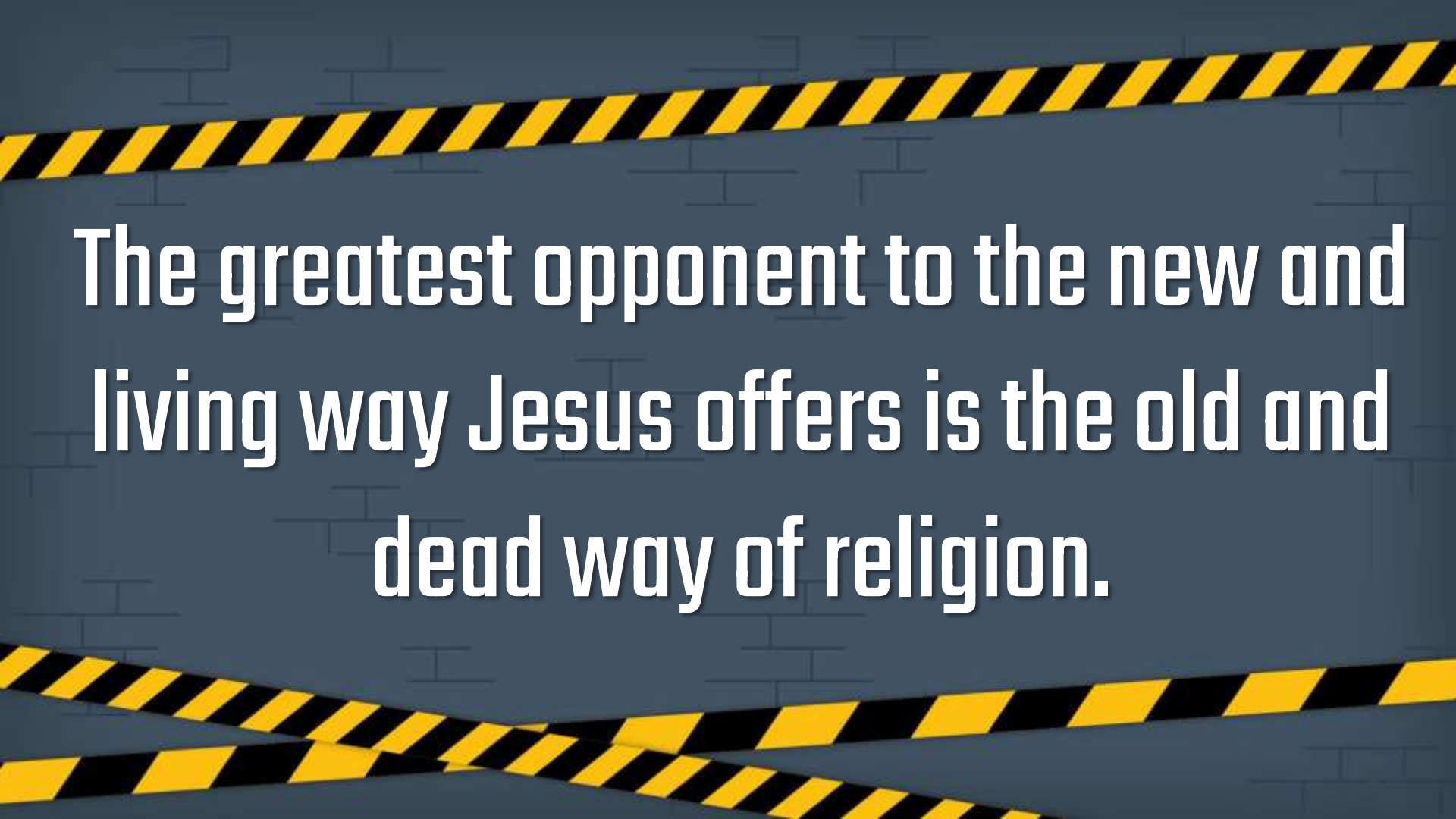


How Religion Tries to Steal What it Did Not – and Cannot – Earn for Itself

John 9:35 – 10:2



March 17, 2024
Pastor Cliff

The image features a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of white 'H' symbols. Two strips of yellow and black diagonal hazard tape are positioned diagonally across the frame, one near the top and one near the bottom. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

The greatest opponent to the new and
living way Jesus offers is the old and
dead way of religion.

John 9

35 – Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

36 – He answered, “Who is He, that I may believe in Him?”

37 – Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.”

John 9

38 – And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Him.

39 – And Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind.”

John 9

40 – Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, “We are not blind too, are we?”

41 – Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, ‘We see’, your sin remains.

John 10

01 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber.

02 – “But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.”

“We are not blind, are we?”

- “If you were blind” = if you closed your eyes to the futility of being good enough on your own merit
- “fruit of the poisoned tree”
- The sheep pen = the kingdom of God: righteousness, peace and joy



WARNING!

John 10

07 – So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

08 – “All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

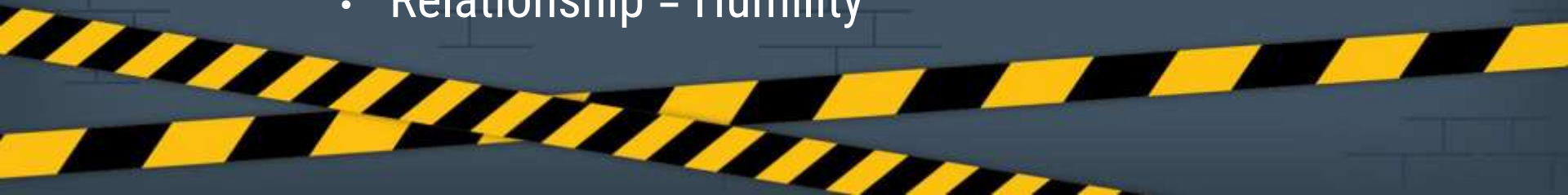
John 10

09 – “I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”





A relationship with Jesus is the door to the kingdom of God!

- Religion is a long-distance relationship
 - Jesus makes it personal!
 - Religion = Arrogance
 - Relationship = Humility
- 

Matthew 13

13 – “...I speak to them in parables, because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

Ways in which religion tries to steal what it has not earned:

Denial of Christ

"All religions are the same."

Denial of sin

"I'm a good person/I'm not as bad as some people."

Empty traditions

"Because it's what we've always done."

Outward appearances

hypocrisy/judgementalism

Pride

Refusal to repent when confronted with sin



Ways in which religion tries to steal what it has not earned:

The 4th Commandment

Keep the Sabbath

The 7th Commandment

Not commit adultery

The 8th Commandment

Not steal

The 9th Commandment

Don't lie



Ways in which religion tries to steal what it has not earned:

Jesus said: Love the Lord above all else, love your
neighbor as yourself

Religion says: God is love, so you're okay and
I'm okay

James 1


25 – But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, this man will be blessed in what he does.

26 – If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.



God is not impressed, or fooled, by
outward appearances.

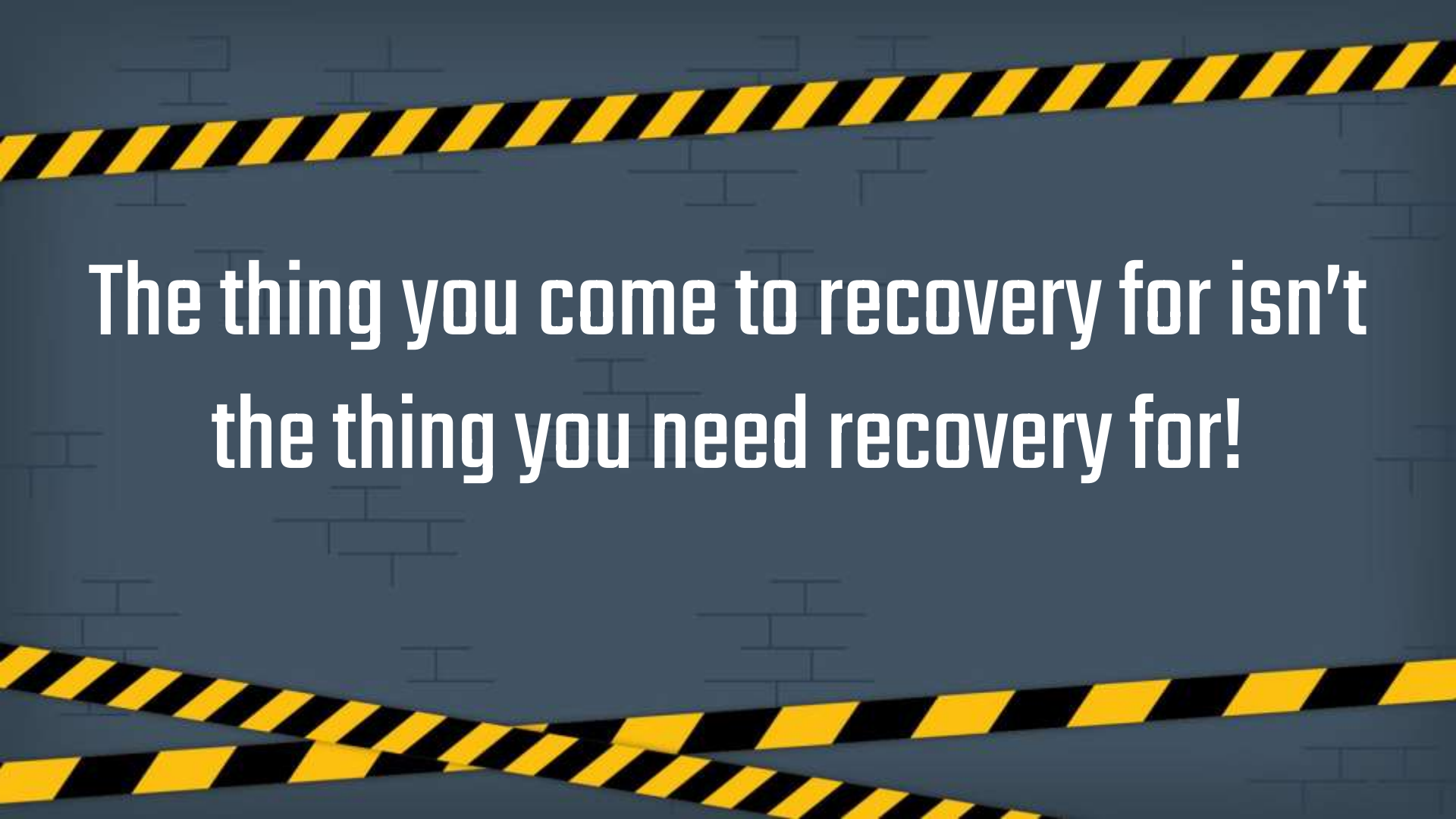
*The only people who are impressed by outward appearances
are those who also live by them.*



"I don't need Celebrate Recovery. That's for
those people."

"I'll go to Celebrate Recovery to help others,
not because I need any help."

**—pretty much everyone who has ever
gone to Celebrate Recovery**

The image features a dark blue background with a repeating pattern of faint, light blue horizontal lines. Two strips of yellow and black diagonal striped caution tape are positioned diagonally across the frame. One strip runs from the top left towards the top right, and another strip runs from the bottom left towards the bottom right, with the two strips crossing each other in the lower-left quadrant. Centered in the middle of the image is a large, bold, white text.

The thing you come to recovery for isn't
the thing you need recovery for!

Hebrews 10

09 – ...He takes away the first in order to establish the second.

10 – By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 – Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices...

Hebrews 10

11 – ...which can never take away sins;

12 – but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God...

14 – For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified...

Hebrews 10


19 – Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,

20 – by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,


Hebrews 10


21 – and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

22 – let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.



The greatest opponent to the new and
living way Jesus offers is the old and
dead way of religion.





Have you been trying to get into the kingdom of God by climbing
the ladder of religion?

Has religion blinded you to your own sin?

Is today the day you walk through the door of a relationship
with Jesus?

