

# ONLY THE BROKEN

**Week 8 | Only The Broken | September 13, 2015**

## **Opening Up:**

- Do you have any habits that you practice religiously? Do you have any hobbies that you have a religious devotion to?
- What happens when your religious practice or hobby is disrupted?
- Finish this sentence. My life is in order when.... Or finish this sentence. My life is out of order when....

**Reference:** Galatians 4:8-20

## **Discuss:**

1. Christianity is not a religion of slaves to a master, but it is a relationship of sons and daughters to a Father. In what sense does the gospel bring freedom from slavery? What does it mean to live as a child in a relationship not enslaved to religion?
2. What do you think about what Platt and Merida say in their commentary? It reads, "What if Satan's strategy to condemn your soul involves not tempting you to do all the wrong things, but instead leading you to do all the right things with the wrong spirit? What if Satan actually wants you to come to church, lead a small group, teach, and lead your home in an upright way? What if he's in favor of you doing all those things, just so long as you think that by doing those things you're working your way to God?"
3. All idol worship involves some self-saving strategy. When we are self-saving, we say things like this: "Jesus you great, but not great enough. What I really need is you plus this other thing. This other thing is what I believe will really save me." What idols are you in most danger of serving? In other words, what is the + in your Jesus+ religion?
4. What might it look like to rely on the law for salvation? How is this contrary to the gospel?
5. Respond to what Keller wrote: "The great and central basis of Christian **assurance** is not how much our hearts are set on God, but how unshakably His heart is set on us." How does being known by God change you? How does God knowing you reassure you today?
6. If God, our Father, still expects His children to obey, how is a relationship with Him different from being a slave to religion? How does remembering that God knows you free you from the temptation to worship idols?
7. Paul is a missionary. Mission is not what you do to people, but what you do with people. Why do you think church can feel like an event you attend and not like a family you belong to?
8. This text teaches that a church should elevate Jesus over and above the leaders and the church. It also teaches that a church should tell the truth and not flatter people with what they want to hear. In light of this text, what might we look for in a healthy church? How can New City look more like a church that honors Jesus? What can you do to help that?
9. Pray.