

# ASTONISHED

Seeing & Hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

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## Small Group Questions — The Week of November 1, 2020

**Sermon Overview:** It is often said that Christianity is “about a relationship, not a religion.” While this statement might be well-meaning, it is simply not true. Not only does this create a false dichotomy, but it is important to understand that the word religion refers to “the service and worship of God.” What that means is that not only is Christianity a religion, it is the only true religion. Our problem is when we make Christianity into a religion that is more about us and our own agendas than Jesus Christ and His Kingdom. This Sunday, we will look at the difference between man-made religion and following Jesus. Through His teaching on fasting, the Sabbath, and a parable about wineskins, we will see why true religion is found in only Jesus.

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 2:18-3:6

1. It is often said that Christianity is “about a relationship, not a religion.” Why is this a false dichotomy? In what way is Christianity about both?
2. What are some of the characteristics of man-made religion? What are some of the characteristics of true religion that is centered on Jesus Christ? How can you tell the difference?
3. What are the two primary ways that we reject God’s law? How is Jesus the only one who has fulfilled God’s law?
4. Why were the Pharisee’s so threatened by Jesus? If Jesus were to come back today, do you think any aspect of your life would be threatened too?
5. What is the overarching message of the parable of the wineskins? What does the wine represent? What do the wineskins represent?
6. How do we maintain a Christian life that is centered on Christ alone?
7. How is the Gospel incompatible with man-made religion? Why is true religion found in only Jesus?