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❖SERMON NOTES❖

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Sunday, May 29, 2011

**“THE EMPTINESS OF RELIGION”**

(1 Samuel 4:1-22)

People around the world practice religion. Religion is common across time and world cultures. God’s good news offers us far more than a religious experience. He offers a personal encounter with a real and holy God.

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest”* (Matthew 11:28, The Message).

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast”* (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).

*“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Romans 10:9, NIV).

**APPLICATION #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**will not win today’s battles (v. 1).**

**APPLICATION #2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**will not win today’s battles (v. 4).**

**APPLICATION #3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**will not win today’s battles (v. 5).**

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Sunday, May 29, 2011

**“THE EMPTINESS OF RELIGION”**

(1 Samuel 4:1-22)

*“God's way seems foolish to the Jews because they want a sign from heaven to prove it is true. And it is foolish to the Greeks because they believe only what agrees with their own wisdom. So when we preach that Christ was crucified, the Jews are offended, and the Gentiles say it's all nonsense. But to those called by God to salvation, both Jews and Gentiles, Christ is the mighty power of God and the wonderful wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:22-24, NLT).*

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest” (Matthew 11:28, The Message).*

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9, NIV).*

*“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9, NIV).*

**APPLICATION #1: Yesterday's memories will not win today's battles (v. 1).**

**APPLICATION #2: Religious activity will not win today's battles (v. 4).**

**APPLICATION #3: Spiritual pep rallies will not win today's battles (v. 5).**

*“They didn't know GOD and could not have cared less” (1 Samuel 2:12, Message).*