

**Losing My Religion**  
Part 1: **Licking Cups**  
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Southside Baptist Church  
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**Passages [READ THEM]:**

Matthew 23:25-28; John 7:37-38

**Principle [KNOW THEM]:**

1. The **vessel** is not as important as what it **contains**.
2. Jesus did not call people to be **religious**; He invites them into a **relationship**.
3. Practicing **religion** is like licking the cup; **Following** Jesus is drinking Living Water

**Practices [DO THEM]:** Stop licking the cup and start drinking the Living Water!

1. Be in worship or join us online every week during *Losing my Religion*
2. Submit questions and comments and join us in the prayer chapel on Wednesday at 6:30
3. Follow the weekly reading plan
4. Attend a small group
5. Read one of the books suggested below
6. Join Starting Point, beginning Sunday, March 8, at 9:00 a.m.

**Daily Readings:**

**Monday:** James 1

**Tuesday:** James 2

**Wednesday:** James 3

**Thursday:** James 4

**Friday:** James 5

**Saturday:** Colossians 1

**Sunday:** Colossians 2

**Past sermon series on this topic:**

*U R the Church & 30 Words*

[ssbc.church/gather/message-series](http://ssbc.church/gather/message-series)

**Check out these books on this topic:**

*The End of Religion*, Bruxy Cavey

*The Jesus I Never Knew*, Philip Yancey

*The Irresistible Revolution*, Shane Claiborn

## Small Group Questions

### HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic]

1. Do you have any lingering questions or thoughts related to this week's teaching or daily readings?
2. How do you define the word religion? Do you think of it as a positive or negative word? Why?
3. Does it surprise you to know that there is only one positive reference to "religion" in the Bible? Why do you think that is the case?
4. If you invited a friend to church and s/he said, "I am not a religious person," how would you respond?

### HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture]

5. Read Colossians 2:1-5
  - a. What is Paul's concern for the Colossians and Laodiceans?
  - b. What is God's "mystery"?
  - c. How might people have been deluding these young believers?
  - d. How has religion been used throughout the years to exploit believers?
6. Read Colossians 2:6-10
  - a. What is Paul's advice to the Colossians?
  - b. How is Paul's advice the same or different from being religious?
7. Read Colossians 2:11-15
  - a. What is Paul saying about circumcision and baptism?
  - b. How did Jesus respond to our trespasses and debt?
  - c. Who were the "rulers and authorities" and what did Jesus do to them?
8. Read Colossians 2:16-20
  - a. When Paul warns against food, drink, festivals and Sabbath, to what is he referring?
  - b. How is religion only a shadow and what is the substance?
  - c. Why would a return to religion disqualify believers?

### HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

9. Has religion helped your relationship with God? If so, how? How might religion have hindered your relationship with Jesus? Talk about it, invite accountability, and take time to pray.