

# JOHN

## ***BELIEVE***

### *"The Contrasting Messages of Jesus & Religion"*

**INTRO:** *Jesus claimed to speak words that were (and continue being) spirit and life (6:63). Yet His words are not without controversy. Jesus faced challenges from the religious establishment of His day, a challenge that continues in our world today.*

**I. \_\_\_\_\_ is a powerful controller of people.**

*Religion is Man's attempt to come to God through human effort. This message controls people both internally and externally.*

**II. Jesus' message challenges \_\_\_\_\_ (7:32, 45-53).**

*Jesus preached a message that angered the Religious authorities because it threatened their power over people.*

**III. Reject Religion's message of \_\_\_\_\_ and receive Jesus' message of \_\_\_\_\_ (7:33-44).** *Jesus' message contrasts Religion's message in two main areas...*

**A. Jesus exposes as vain what Religion espouses:**

\_\_\_\_\_.  
*Sinful Man can't get to heaven on personal merit. Religion offers no guarantee of overcoming the effects of sin.*

**B. Jesus provides what Religion vainly promises:**

\_\_\_\_\_.  
*Religion with its works-based salvation cannot possess the Holy Spirit; He is a gift to those who rest in the finished work of Christ by faith.*