

## *The Lure of Legalism*

The danger of drifting, slipping away

***“lest at any time we should let them slip [drift]” Hebrews 2.1***

### Reasons why Jewish Christians slipped away from their churches in 52 AD.

1.  Jews in the first century liked the comfort of all the Jewish rules, sacrifices, trips to the synagogues, feast days. Nice to have a checklist direct from God.
2.  Our religion, Judaism, came straight from the mouth of God on Sinai! We can trace our Jewish roots back 2,000 years to Abraham. These apostles want us to be satisfied with a history back only back to Pentecost 20 years ago. Huh?
3.  We like the coziness of all the rituals from their past. Keeping all the rules makes me feel moral.  
I'll get special recognition in heaven: a button, gold stars, extra crowns, maybe even a plaque.
4.  A-sermon-a-week doesn't fill the void left by missing out on total-saturation Jewish-ness .
5. Many of us wear our religion like a comfortable pair of shoes or a favorite sweater.
6.  Leaving the familiar is like not getting a hug from your mother.
7.  I lost all my fishing buddies when I joined a Bible believing church.
8.  I can't marry the girl I've liked for the last 5 years. She's a nice Jewish girl but she doesn't believe in Jesus. . .yet.
9.  The 600 rules of Moses were strict, but these Church rules are vague: love, be patient, be generous, pray, don't think bad thoughts, don't get back. It's so constant. You can never tell when you've done enough. I like the lists of all the commands better.
10.  Friends shun me.
11.  My boss says I have to leave my religion at home.
12.  My kids don't understand why all the meetings I go to.
13.  My friends have seen other friends go off into other cults, even idolatry, and they're okay with it, but they don't like my telling them there is only one way—and that I'm right!
14.  I'm not sure I can live with the possibility of persecution.
15.  I'm allergic to beatings and whippings like Paul got.
16.  I grew up expecting a Messiah-King on a white horse, not a dead rabbi who came back from the grave.

*[Muslims, Catholics, Hindus, as well as Protestants often face the same dilemma when they trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.]*