

# **Ridin' High Cowboy Church**

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

**Pastor: Steve Bishop**

**Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I  
should go, for to you I lift up my soul.**

*Psalm 143:8*

**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

## **Finding the Loopholes**

Getting around a rule or a law...such as asking your kids who want to go to a friend's home...are their parents going to be home? (I knew they would eventually be home)...no dogs allowed on the beach (we only had one dog)...

What about when we use the bible to create the loop hole. The Old Testament teaches tithing (giving money to the church), but the New Testament doesn't. The bible says, don't get drunk on wine – but says nothing about beer!

Loophole Christians ask things like, how close can I get to sinning without actually sinning?

Religious leaders used rules to keep people from breaking the rules. When you brought your girlfriend home to watch a movie and your turned the lights off and your mom said, new rule, no lights off...but you're always telling me to turn lights off...this is a new rule to keep from breaking another rule!

### **Mark 7**

**1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus 2 and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)**

**5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?"**

***6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.'***

***8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions."***

***9 And he continued, "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.' 11 But you say that if anyone declares that what might have been used to help their father or mother is Corban (that is, devoted to God) – 12 then you no longer let them do anything for their father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."***

Point: Don't use God's word to avoid doing God's will...

#### ***Romans 13:7-10***

***8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. . 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.***

***2 Corinthians 4 1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.***

We have this ministry - Your purpose is people...

We do not lose heart – or act cowardly – or be afraid to tell others about Jesus

When we realize the great call on our lives, fear goes away...

***2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly, we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.***

We never trick people into coming to church...

Distort the word of God – do you know how big we could grow this church if we said you don't have to believe in Jesus just be the best you can be ...

Truth Plainly – we’re all sinners in need of a savior

It doesn’t do God or the church any good to get people any other way.

Every man’s conscience – this means our life and our message line up with each other – they may reject Christ, but they can never say we lived like we don’t believe it.

What would loving you require me to do?

Every person you come face to face with are people Jesus died for.

***Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.***

Paul was saying that Jesus was being nailed to a cross and 40 miles away he and his friends were sinning their brains out and Jesus was dying for him right in the middle of it.