

Decatur SDA Church

(October 10, 2015)

**Confessions of a Practical Atheist**

(Isaiah 29:1-4; 13-16)

**A practical atheist is a person who believes that God exists but lives as if He does not.**

**Confession #1: We think our \_\_\_\_\_ is better than God's \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup> (Isa 29:13, 16)**

- a. Legalism is trusting in our own effort instead of God's power.
- b. God has already done enough through His Son Jesus Christ to save us. Even though Christ's sacrifice is effectual and all encompassing we still find ourselves falling into legalism.
- c. Legalism – “obedience to law, not faith in God's grace, is the pre-eminent principle of redemption.” Antinomianism—“ a view that moral laws are no longer binding.”<sup>2</sup>
- d. We even make spiritual plans without prayerfully considering God's plan for us.

**Confession #2: We want to please \_\_\_\_\_ more than \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>3</sup> (Isa 29:13b)**

- a. Israel kept man-made rules. They were worried about what humans thought of them more than how God perceived them.
- b. The only response to the sacrifice of Jesus is to live a life that is pleasing *only* to Him.

**Confession #3: We believe our \_\_\_\_\_ life does not affect our \_\_\_\_\_ witness.<sup>4</sup> (Isa 29:15)**

- a. Our secret sin does affect our public witness for Christ.
- b. We cannot live life as a dichotomy – “a separation into two divisions that differ widely from or contradict each other.”<sup>5</sup>
- c. “Be sure your sins will find you out” (Numbers 32:23b, KJV).

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<sup>1</sup> Craig Groeschel. *Presentation on “Practical Atheism”*, Notes from Catalyst conference.

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia article on Legalism (theology). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism\\_\(theology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legalism_(theology))

<sup>3</sup> Groeschel - “*Practical Atheism*”

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Encarta English Dictionary – Microsoft Word