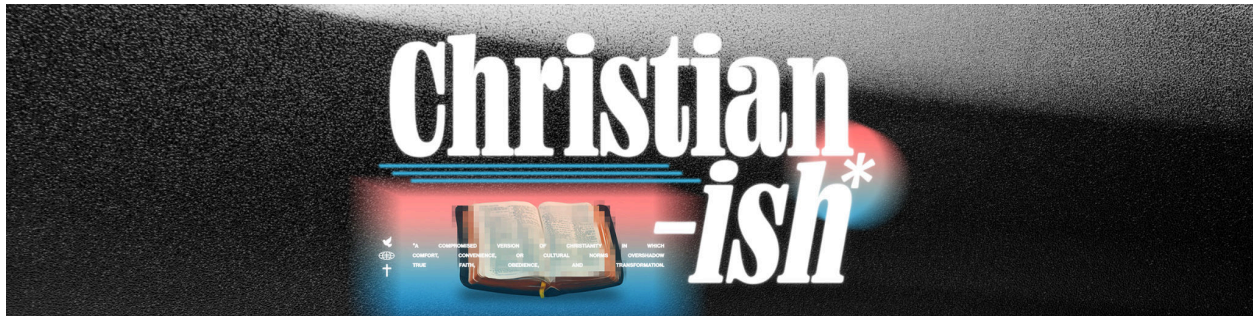




Part 2: God BUT _____ // Jeff Brodie // October 18, 2026

You can upgrade your technology, increase your income, build a successful career, and create a comfortable life—and still miss what you need most. We spend so much energy trying to become independent that we rarely stop to ask whether our independence is making us spiritually blind. Jesus confronted a wealthy church in Laodicea that thought it had everything but couldn't recognize what it was missing. What if the life you've worked so hard to build is actually making it harder to see your need for Jesus?

Scripture: [Revelation 3:14-22 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Spiritual maturity isn't needing Jesus less; it's recognizing your need for him more.

Digging In:

1. When you imagine a really good life, what comes to mind? How has your definition of a good life changed over the years?
2. Think about a time when you achieved something you really wanted—a job, financial goal, relationship milestone, or personal accomplishment. How did it affect your sense of satisfaction or security? Did it change anything about what you believed you needed?
3. Jeff suggested that we sometimes turn a covenant relationship with Jesus into a contract. What might that look like in everyday life? How is a relationship with Jesus different from simply wanting him to help our lives work out?
4. Read Revelation 3:14-22 together as a group. The Christians in Laodicea believed they had everything they needed, but Jesus saw their lives very differently. What stands out to you about the gap between how they saw themselves and how Jesus saw them?
5. Jesus says, "You don't realize..." (v. 17). Why do you think spiritual blindness can be so difficult to recognize in ourselves, especially when life is going well? Do you think it's easier to see in others? How so?
6. In verses 18-20, Jesus offers the Laodiceans what they can't provide for themselves and then invites them to share a meal with him. What does this reveal about what Jesus wants from them (and us)?
7. Our culture often treats independence as a sign of maturity and success. Where is independence healthy, and where might that same mindset become a barrier in our relationship with God?

8. Jeff shared several examples of “Jesus BUT _____” such as “Jesus, but I want to make my own decisions” or “Jesus, but don’t disrupt my comfort.” Which version do you find easiest to slip into in your own life? What do you think is underneath that response?
9. Charles Spurgeon said, “God does not need your strength; he has more than enough power of his own. He asks your weakness; he has none of that himself.” Why might bringing our weakness to God be harder than showing him our strengths? How does the cross change the way we think about weakness and dependence?
10. When you face a decision, a problem, or an uncertain situation, what’s usually your first instinct? Where does prayer or seeking God’s wisdom fit into that process?
11. Is there an area of your life where you’ve become comfortable making your own plans without considering what following Jesus might mean for those plans? What would it look like to invite him into that area?

Moving Forward:

For the next week, begin each morning with this simple prayer: “Jesus, where am I relying on myself instead of you? Show me where I need your wisdom, grace, and strength today.” Then choose one situation each day where you need Jesus to show up, and intentionally seek him before acting. The goal isn’t to do seven impressive things for God. It’s to practice living in relationship with him, rather than treating him as a last resort.

Prayer Prompt:

Lead your group to pray in the following ways:

1. *For spiritual awareness:* Ask God to reveal places where comfort, success, or self-sufficiency have made us less aware of our need for him. Pray for the humility to see ourselves clearly.
2. *For grace and renewed relationship:* Thank Jesus that we don’t have to earn his love through our own strength or accomplishments. Ask for a deeper understanding of the forgiveness, grace, and relationship he offers through the cross.
3. *For daily dependence:* Pray for courage to trust Jesus in one specific situation this week, especially where following him may require surrendering control or stepping outside our comfort zone.