The Pharisaical Church of Christ

Greg Kline · Matthew 23:1–36

INTRODUCTION

- He was exposing the Pharisees and the scribes for their dead spiritual condition.
- These Pharisees and the scribes, they knew the law. They taught the law. They claimed to love the law. But they did not practice it.
- Let's examine what Jesus says about the Pharisees and see if we are Pharisaical or if we are truly Christians.

1 You Shut the Kingdom of Heaven in People's Faces

Matthew 23:13; Matthew 15:3–9

- You shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You neither enter yourselves nor allow those who enter to go in.
- What is one way that they shut the kingdom of heaven on people's faces? They denied Jesus as Christ.
- They elevated their traditions, the tradition of men over the commandments of God.
- We need to not be teaching what the church of Christ does or what South Bumbee does. We need to teach what belonging to Christ means.

2 Devouring Widows' Houses: A Misuse of Authority

Matthew 23:14; Mark 12:38–40; Matthew 6:2–4

- For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers. Therefore you will receive the greater condemnation.
- It was a misuse of their authority.
- It means they use their positions of authority to take advantage of them.
- Help people because you can. And because you love them. Not because you want a trumpet sounded sounding your praises.

3 Twice as Much a Child of Hell: Our Teachings

Matthew 23:15; Acts 8

- You travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte. And when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.
- When they converted people, they didn't convert people to God. They converted people to the Pharisees.
- We need to be careful that when we teach people, we're not teaching them to Church of Christ doctrine as it stands, but we're teaching them the doctrine of Christ.
- This building saves no one. Christ saves everyone who calls on his name and does what he says.

4 Blind Guides: Personal Opinion Has Run Amok

Matthew 23:16–22; Matthew 5:33–37; Genesis 1:1

- Their personal opinion was sinful. It transgressed the commands of God.
- If you swear by something, it's God's. You're not circumventing rules. You're not tricking God. You haven't found a loophole.
- We've got to stop teaching our personal opinions as doctrine.
- An opinion may be correct, but an opinion may also be wrong.

5 Misplaced Priorities: The Weightier Matters of the Law

Matthew 23:23–24

- For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law. Justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done without neglecting the others.
- You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel.
- A church should be a place of worship and praise to God. Period.
- We've got to be careful that we consider our priorities and make sure they're in the same order that Christ are.

6 Our Inner Man and Our Outer Mask

Matthew 23:25–28

- You clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence.
- The outer man isn't what it's all about. It's about the heart. It's about a heart that seeks God.
- You can fool the whole world. You may even fool yourself, but you will not fool God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Consider your commitment to God this morning. What would Jesus say when he looks at the inward part of you?**

MY NOTES