

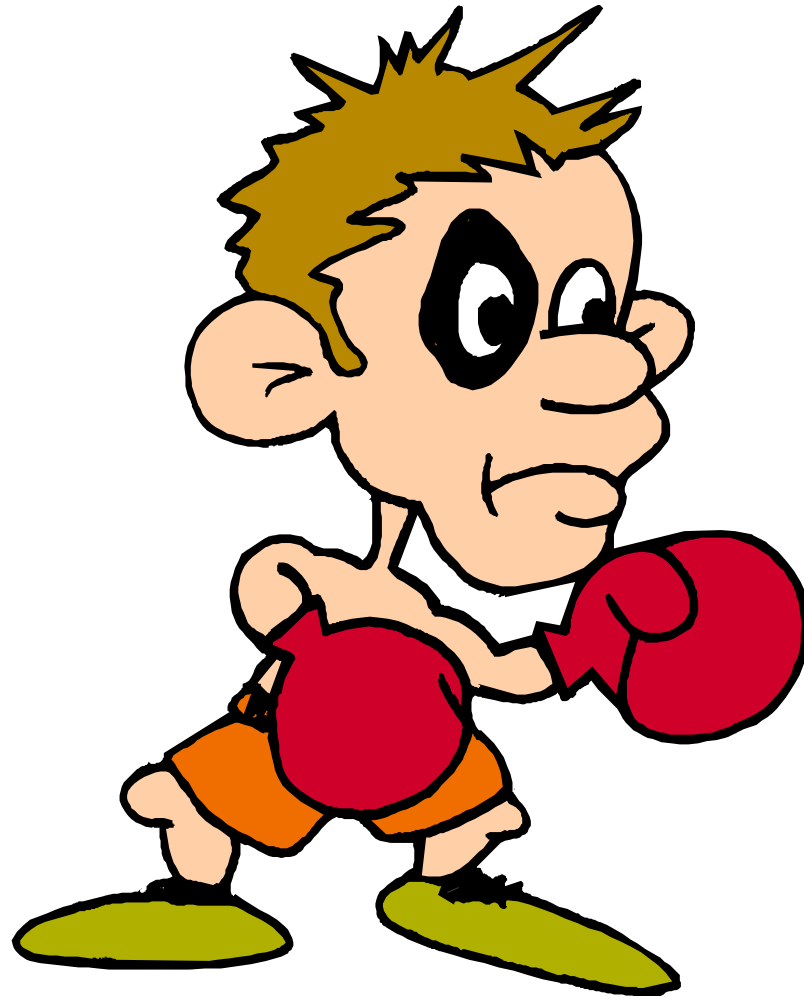


“THE **INSIDE** COUNTS”

MATTHEW 23



“PHARISEES”



Religious* but not *Right

legalism is: *.strict, literal, or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral Code.*

The principles of those who hold a theological position of adhering to the Law as opposed to the Gospel; the doctrine of Justification by Works.

while it is not legalism to have high standards, it is legalism to try to impose those standards on others as a system of spirituality.

some types of religious legalism imposed on Christians

Taboos: thinking one is spiritual because he doesn't do certain things or follows a certain do's and don'ts.

Relative Righteousness: "your sins are worse than mine, therefore I am more spiritual"

Asceticism: spirituality by self-sacrifice or extreme self denial; giving up normal activities or even necessities in the mistaken notion that God is impressed.

Ritual: idea that one is spiritual because he goes through various forms of ceremony or ritual

Confusing Means with Results: the idea that you are spiritual if you are faithful in praying, giving, witnessing, attending church, and so forth

1. They made themselves

hypocrites – v.3

Check out vs. 13-15,23,25,27,29

- (Hypokrites) = an actor, stage player, pretender, play a part.
- *Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 7:5; 15:7; 16:3; 22:18*

What about 1 Peter 2:1?

2 Corinthians 11:14,15 ?

Titus 1:16 ?

2 Timothy 3:5 ?



2. They made Religion Hard – v.4

The questions – Matthew 9:11,15:2; 19:16

Jesus said – Matthew 11:30

We tend to – Luke 18:11,12; Romans
14:2,3; Galatians 4:11; Colossians 3:20

Remember Galatians 5:1

Is it **RULES** or **RELATIONSHIP**?



3. They love man's honor – v.6



They were **seen** – Luke 18:12

1. Giving money for the poor – Matt. 6:2
2. Praying on the street – Matt. 6:5
3. With fasting faces – Matt. 6:16

But Jesus **said** – (vs. 8-12) Humbleness is the mark of the follower of Christ.

Philippians 2:6 “He humbled Himself”

Who matters? Man or God?

4. They miss the Heart – vs.25-28

Notice – outside, within, clean, cleanse
and that – “cause & effect”

The Christian has a

1. *Past & present* – 1 Corinthians 6:7,8
2. *Old & new* – Ephesians 4:22-24
3. *To & a From* – 1 Thessalonians 1:9
4. *Before & an after* - 1 Timothy 1:12-16
5. *A cause for the effect* – Romans 6

5. They follow a path to Hell – v.33

Refusing the Words and warnings of the prophets & requiring good works they put themselves & others in a place of no escape!



Matthew 5:20

Matthew 7:23

Ephesians 2:8,9

Hebrews 2:3



6. They break God's Heart – v. 37

Matthew 9:36 – moved with compassion

“AND YOU WOULD NOT”

**Matthew 19:26 – he went away sorrowful
for he had great riches.**

**John 6:66 – and many went back and
walked with Him no longer.**

**Acts 17:32 – some mocked, others said
we'll hear you again about this.**

ME???

1. Works or **washed?**
2. Rules or **Relationship?**
3. Man or **God?**
4. **Practice what I preach?**

So what will you do about it?