

November 25, 2018

“Woe to You”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
Olney, IL 62450
217-218-0803
www.olneychurchofchrist.org

Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
-------------	---------

Visitors are welcome
We offer Bible classes for all ages
We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

The phrase “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!*” is spoken by Jesus seven times in **Matthew 23**. As with most groups, not every scribe and Pharisee can be “painted with one brush.” Some Pharisees, such as Paul (**Acts 23:6**) and Nicodemus (**John 3:1-2; 7:50-51**), demonstrated a greater openness to the truth than others. As a whole, though, the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ day were deceived by pride and selfishness.

At the root of their problems was a tendency to ignore the “inward man.” Jesus said to them, “*Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and unrighteousness*” (**Matt. 23:25**).

Though their outward actions seemed righteous, their inward character was anything but (cf. **Mark 7:6**). Jesus likened them to “*whitened tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness*” (**Matt. 23:27**). He said, “*Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity*” (verse 28).

The scribes and Pharisees’ disregard for the “inward man” led them to heavily emphasize certain details of the law, while leaving undone the “*weightier matters of the law*” (**Matt. 23:23**). Jesus said of their inconsistencies, “*You blind guides, who*

“Woe to You”

(Continued)

strain out a gnat, and swallow a camel!” (verse 24). He exhorted them to submit to all of God’s will (verse 23).

The scribes and Pharisees’ under-emphasis on the “inward man” can, in part, be traced to the motive they had for doing “good works.” Notice **Matthew 23:5-7: *But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad, enlarge the fringes of their garments, and love the place of honor at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’ by men.*** The scribes and Pharisees’ goal was not to please God, but to exalt themselves in the eyes of others.

Their self-exaltation was linked to pride. The parable Jesus spoke of a Pharisee and tax collector in **Luke 18:10-14** was spoken to “***certain people who were convinced of their own righteousness, and who despised all others***” (verse 9). In this parable, Jesus used a Pharisee to illustrate self-righteousness, and a tax collector (among those most despised by the Pharisees) to illustrate humility.

Perhaps the height of the scribes and Pharisees’ hypocrisy was a failure to obey commands they bound on others. Jesus described them as people who “***say, and do not***” (**Matt. 23:3b**). He said “***they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s***

shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger” (verse 4).

Furthermore, much of what the scribes and Pharisees taught as doctrine was not even from God. When some scribes and Pharisees criticized Jesus’ disciples in **Matthew 15**, Jesus said of them “***in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrine rules made by men***” (verse 9).

When reading about these Jewish leaders, it is easy to think first about someone(s) we know who seems to closely resemble the group. Ironically, this attitude resembles that of the scribes and Pharisees...examining others’ faults before one’s own (cf. **Luke 7:36-50**).

Instead of this approach, each of us should *first* examine ourselves to ensure we are not guilty of the attitudes and practices Jesus condemns.

If we do good deeds just to be exalted by others, the words “***woe to you***” could be said to us. If we put others down to make ourselves feel good, the words “***woe to you***” could be said to us. If we stress *some* of what God commands us while ignoring other things He commands us, the words “***woe to you***” could be said to us. If we “put on a show” of righteousness, the words “***woe to you***” could be said to us.

May we heed Jesus’ warning in **Matthew 5:20** and ensure we are not deceived by selfishness, pride, and hypocrisy as were certain of the scribes and Pharisees.

God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

+++++

Words to Consider

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil. Cling to that which is good. In love of the brothers be tenderly affectionate one to another; in honor preferring one another; not lagging in diligence; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; enduring in troubles; continuing steadfastly in prayer; contributing to the needs of the saints; given to hospitality.”

–Romans 12:9-13

Prayer List

Holly G
Barb A
Harold B (Prostate Cancer)
Sandy S (Foot Injury)
Betty P
Mabel H
Norma's Grandson, Ryan (Head Injury)
Cheryl S (Breast Cancer)
Norma C (Injuries from fall)
Jerry G (Throat Cancer)
Mattie B (Leukemia)
Tom B (Pancreatic Cancer)
Linda & Family
Dody G
Joe B (Lung Cancer)
Allen S (Cancer)
Jeanette & Family
Raymond B

Daily Bible Reading

Nov. 25 – Ezekiel 11-13; James 1
Nov. 26 – Ezekiel 14-15; James 2
Nov. 27 – Ezekiel 16-17; James 3
Nov. 28 – Ezekiel 18-19; James 4
Nov. 29 – Ezekiel 20-21; James 5
Nov. 30 – Ezekiel 22-23; 1 Peter 1
Dec. 1 – Ezekiel 24-26; 1 Peter 2

“For the word of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.” –1 Corinthians 1:18

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 25, 2018

Bible Study: Joe

Worship: Travis

Evening: Jim

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Dan D

Cleaning Building

Paula

Prepare Communion

Jessica

Upcoming Reminders

Dec. 22: Ladies' Bible Class @ 9:30 a.m.

Assignments

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Reading: Larry

Announcements: Harold

Table: Travis

Serve: Darrell

Carlyle

Dave

Steve

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Invitation: Dan D

Anniversaries

December 6 - Steve & Misty

Birthdays

November 25 - Mason

November 27 - Roger

December 3 - Rowena