

November 22, 2020

“Woe to You”

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

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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
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff, Roger Sholders

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 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.” In **Matthew 23:25**, Jesus said, “**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.**”

Though their outward actions seemed righteous, their inward character was not (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, 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 examining *self* (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, 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 the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus’ day.

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

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Words to Consider

"When pride comes, then comes shame, but with humility comes wisdom." –

Proverbs 11:2

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe." – Proverbs 18:10

"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls." – Proverbs 25:28

"A fool vents all of his anger, but a wise man brings himself under control."
– Proverbs 29:11

Prayer List

Holly G
Sandy S
Mabel H
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond & Maxine
Ken & Chris F
Brandon O's Grandmother (Lung Cancer)
Jeanette's Mother, Fontella
Jerry S (Prostate Cancer)
Carlyle (Hip)
Heather's Friend, Courtney
Barbara G (Cancer)
June H
Mike D (COVID recovery)
Lyla B (Leukemia recovery)
Roger & Family
Mary S (Pancreatic Cancer)

Daily Bible Reading

November 22 – Prov. 27-29; 2 Cor. 10
November 23 – Prov. 30-31; 2 Cor. 11:1-15
November 24 – Eccl. 1-3; 2 Cor. 11:16-33
November 25 – Eccl. 4-6; 2 Cor. 12
November 26 – Eccl. 7-9; 2 Cor. 13
November 27 – Eccl. 10-12; Gal. 1
November 28 – Song of Sol. 1-3; Gal. 2

"How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! Yes, to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."
– Proverbs 16:16

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Bible Study: Dan D
Worship: Douglas
Evening: Jim

Wednesday, November 25, 2020

Travis

Assignments

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Reading: Darrell
Announcements: Harold
Table: Dave
Serve: Jeff
Steve

Clean Building

Misty

Prepare Communion

Donna

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Invitation:

Upcoming Reminders

Anniversaries

December 6 – Steve & Misty

Birthdays

November 25 – Mason
November 27 – Roger
December 3 – Rowena
December 13 – Donna B
December 21 – Linda
December 21 – Christie
December 22 – Jailyn
December 22 – Lauren