

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 16, 2022

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 57. The Causes and Signs of Self-Deception – Matthew 7:21-23

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Today we address the dangers of “unconscious hypocrisy”, self-delusion. We are warned in the Scripture that we can easily be misled by false prophets, or worse, a false profession and false peace. We can deceive ourselves into believing we are a Christian when we actually stand in danger of hearing these most dreadful words, “I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.”

- I. The Test of Obedience – Matt. 7:21-23
 - A. Stand in the Evil Day – Eph. 6:10-13
 - B. Test All Things – 1 Thess. 5:19-22
 1. Do not quench the Spirit or despise preaching
 2. Test all things and hold to what is good and abstain from every form of evil (doctrine) – Acts 17:10-11; Gal. 1:6-9; Titus 1:10-11; 1 Cor. 2:4-5
- II. Causes of Self-Deception – believing a lie due to failure to heed the plain teaching of Scripture
 - A. Saying It Doesn’t Make It So – Lord, Lord – Luke 6:46
 - B. Repeating It Doesn’t Make it More So – Lord, Lord – Matt. 25:41-46
 - C. Refusal to Examine Oneself – 1 John 1:6-7; 3:3; 1 Cor. 11:27-29; 2 Cor. 13:5; Gal. 6:4
 - D. Doing Right Things with a Wrong Motive – serving self – Phil. 1:16; 2:3
- III. Signs of Self-Deception
 - A. Turning Something Good into an Idol – 2 Kings 18:4
 - B. Seeking Signs and Wonders instead of the Word – Matt. 16:4
 - C. Believing Any Religious Gathering is Good – spiritual talk = silence? (Synagogue of Satan)
 - D. Applying Christian Thought Generally and not Specifically or Personally – western values
 - E. Loving Debate to Win instead of Make Disciples – Prov. 27:17
 - F. An Academic Interest in Theology - Approaching the Bible intellectually rather than spiritually – 1 Cor. 8:1; Rom. 8:6
 - G. An Over-Interest in Prophetic Teaching – imbalance – Matt. 23:23
 - H. Loving the Letter and not the Spirit by Pitting Grace against Law – illustration: preaching
- IV. Unmasking Self-Deception
 - A. The Mirror of the Word – James 1:22-25
 1. There is no Conversion without Conviction
 2. There is no Grace without Guilt for Sin
 3. There is no Redemption without Repentance
 - B. Do We Desire to Know Jesus? – Phil. 3:10

Conclusion: “A man can be so busy preaching in pulpits that he forgets and neglects his own soul. After you have attended all your meetings, and denounced communism until you can scarcely speak, after you have dealt with your apologetics and displayed your wonderful knowledge of theology and your understanding of the times, and your complete map of the next fifty years, and after you have read all the translations of the Bible, and have shown your proficiency in a knowledge of its mechanics, I still ask you: “What about your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ?” You know a great deal more than you did a year ago; but do you know Him better? You denounce many wrong things; but do you love Him more? Your knowledge of the Bible and its translations has become quite astounding, and you are an expert in apologetics; but are you obeying the law of god and of Christ increasingly? Is the fruit of the Spirit more and more manifest and evidence in your life? Those are the questions, because ‘Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord’, but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven.’” - MLJ

Cross References

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies. 21 Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil.

Acts 17:10-11

10 Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Galatians 1:6-9

6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Titus 1:10-11

10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Luke 6:46

46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Matthew 25:41-46

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick

and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

1 John 1:6-7

6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 3:3

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

Galatians 6:4

4 But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

Philippians 1:16

16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

Philippians 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

2 Kings 18:4

4 He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan.

Matthew 16:4

4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.

Proverbs 27:17

17 As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

1 Corinthians 8:1

8 Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

Romans 8:6

6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Matthew 23:23

23 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Illustration: Preaching – “People listen to sermons and look for ‘points’, and by the end they make comments about this or that. The effect of true preaching should be to make us fear and tremble. It should make us examine ourselves and think more about the Lord Jesus Christ.” – MLJ

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Philippians 3:10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,