

## Pulling the Mask off Phony Religion Matthew 7:21-23

### Religious disguises are not to be trusted!

*Religious Disguises:*

#### 1. Religious words

*Many will say 'Lord, Lord.'*

- **There is great danger of giving only lip service.**
- **Phony religion consists of words and traditions.**

*...this people honor me with lips but their hearts are far off...*

Isa 29:13 The Lord says: 'These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.'

Matt. 15:7-9

**Apply: Am I reciting words or expressing faith?**

#### 2. Religious associations

*...we...in your name...*

- **Group membership gives no spiritual standing.**
- **We can be very close to spiritual life w/o getting it.**

*The hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.*

Luke 22:21

*...enlightened... tasted the heavenly gift...tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age.... Hebrews 6:4-8;*

*with us...but not of us...*

1 John 2:18-19

**Apply: Which relationships am I depending on?**

#### 3. Religious deeds

*Didn't we drive out demons and perform many miracles?*

- **Mimicking spiritual works does not gain entrance to heaven.**

*...not by works of righteousness...*

Titus 3:5

*...justified by faith apart from works of the Law.*

Romans 3:20-28

*...you were dead...by grace you are saved...not of works...*

Ephesians 2:1-10

- **Working miracles is not proof of spiritual life.**  
Exodus 7:11-12; Acts 8:9-11; Revelation 13:3

*A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign!*  
Matt 12:39

**Apply: Whose work do I trust for salvation?**

**Challenge: How can I do the will of My Father?**

*...enter heaven...only he who does the will of My Father...*

- **It starts with believing.**  
*For **my Father's will** is that everyone who looks to the Son and **believes** in him shall have eternal life...* John 6:37-40

- **It includes repenting.** 2 Peter 3:9

*For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation...* 2 Corinthians 7:10

- **It culminates in obeying.**  
*And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 17 And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.* 1 John 2:3-17