

The Horror of Hypocrisy

(Rom 2:17-24)

- Stay in context! The devil is a master at causing our thoughts to stray from the context
 - Read Rom 2:17-24
 - Hypocrisy- “Simulation; feigning to be what one is not; a concealment of one's true character. The assuming of the false appearance of virtue and religion”
- I. Paul is convicting all mankind of sin, and here addresses those they believed they were beyond the wrath of God due to their possession of the oracles/religion of God
- A) “We can't be under the wrath like the pagans are, we have the word”
 1. James 1:22-25- Be doers of the word and not hearers only
- II. Hypocrisy is the most subtle and dangerous of all sins
- A) This is especially true of the preacher/teacher
 1. 2 Tim 3:5-9 “Having a form of godliness without the power”
 2. James 3:1- Be ye not many masters
 - i. Matt 23- This was the horrible position of the Pharisees
 - ii. Luke 12:1- Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy
 - a) Mat 15:7-9- “Draw nigh with mouth, but heart far from Me”
- III. Division of the text
- A) Rom 2:17-20- Hypocrites claims
 - B) Rom 2:21-23- Paul's interrogation
 - C) Rom 2:24- Result of hypocrisy
- IV. The general character of a hypocrite
- A) Has a theoretical interest in the scriptures only
 1. Scholarly types, academic Christians, loves engaging in debate, treats the word of God as one takes up a hobby
 - i. This doesn't mean that intelligence is not involved in preaching and studying, but the outcome must go further and the motivation deeper
 2. If a man teaches only to show what he knows, or to reveal “new truths” or to unveil to deep things of the word, he is not preaching at all
 - i. 1 Cor 2:1-5- Paul knew the magnitude of what he was doing, and his aim was not man's honor
 - ii. John 5:44- Seek the honor that comes from God not men
 - iii. John 7:18- Seeking the glory of God
 - iv. Gal 1:10- “If I yet please men I am not the servant of God”
 3. Matt 23:5-7- Compare the motivation of the Pharisees

B) The complacent attitude of the hypocrite

1. The hypocrite is self-satisfied, he lacks true humility, has no lack in his estimation of himself
 - i. V.17- “Restest” and “boast”
 - ii. V.18- “Knowest” and “approvest”
 - iii. V.19- “Confident”
 - iv. V.20- “Teacher of ‘babes’”
 - a) Compare this attitude again with that of Paul (2 Cor 12:9)
2. The hypocrite never examines himself honestly, for he feels he is not lacking
 - i. John 8:33- We are Abraham’s seed and have never been in bondage”
 - ii. Luke 6:41-42- Beholding a mote and ignoring a beam
3. Christians must take heed to always examine themselves in light of the scriptures, we must apply what we read to ourselves
 - i. We must allow the scriptures to “search us”
 - a) Psa 139:23-24- “Search me oh God”
 - b) Matt 5:3-8- “Be-attitudes” of true Christian
 - c) James 1:22-25- “Look into the perfect law of liberty” like a mirror

C) The hypocrite is an actor at heart, he is a showman

1. He acts in a way to portray that which he wants you to believe he is or has
 - i. This is another reason as Christians we need to be aware of trying to fit the pattern we believe we ought to
 - a) Beware of attempting to portray a false happiness, or false confidence

D) The hypocrite does not practice what he preaches (Tit 1:16)

1. The hypocrite is guilty of doing that habitually which he instructs others not to do, and yet denies his guilt
 - i. Remember to keep this in the context of “all guilty” (Rom 1:18-3:20)
 - ii. Paul is here dealing with the person who did not believe he was of the same guilt as the pagans

V. The result of hypocrisy

A) Hypocrite dishonors God by his public show

1. Rom 2:24- “Name of God blasphemed among the gentiles by you”
 - i. The hypocrite claims he is the chosen of God, he is the standard, the result of knowing God and receiving His blessings
 - a) Now the world doesn’t judge by profession and doctrine, they judge by what they see
 - 1) Thus the hypocrite does horrible damage to the cause of the gospel

- 2) This is probably the most common reason people are outside the church
- 3) The world judges God's salvation as unworthy of his interest because of what he sees in the professing hypocrite
 - (a) "If that's a Christian, then"
 - (b) "Where's the benefit of that teaching?"
 - (c) "What's different about them?"
- ii. Matt 5:16- "Let your light shine"
 - a) The world judges God's power by what they see in the professing Christians
 - 1) Isa 52:5- Quote concerning God's people carried of into captivity and the blaspheming that causes by the world
 - (a) "Where is their god? Baal is obviously more powerful"
 - (b) Ezek 36:16-38- Perfect picture of the way in which this takes place
 - (1) God is righteous and must chastise the sin of His people, and thereby His name is blasphemed among the gentiles due to his people forcing His hand to turn from them
 - (2) The heathen don't understand the chastisement of God, therefore they consider Him weak and unable to overcome on behalf of His people
 - I. Compare to how we are so often overcome by "Babylon" today

B) Hypocrites final destination

- 1. Matt 24:51- "Cut asunder, weeping and gnashing of teeth"
- 2. John 12:3-6- Judas' hypocrisy